

From: Dylan Emrys <dylanemrys@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 1:19 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Public Comment RE: corporate control of agriculture

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent, a daughter, and a consumer of healthy foods. I live in an agricultural community, and have friends that are orchardists and farmers.

I am concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. This is a very important issue to me.

A few weeks ago, a member of my church spoke to the congregation saying how the corporate company that had brought his small orchard on to sell his fruit for him had dropped him with no warning, saying he was "too small." This man has children and is a hard working man that makes his living from his small orchard. Or used to. It is harder and harder for him to compete with the large corporate sellers and he is struggling this winter to put food on the table. It's **harder and harder to find healthy, locally produced foods** in my area because of situations like this. And as a result I find I have less choice about the food I eat. I am committed to locally grown food that is organic, and its very hard to find and much more expensive. I am a single mom that works full time. My mother passed away earlier this month from cancer. It terrifies me that I might soon not be able to afford the organic food that I can find, and put myself and my daughter at further risk for cancer simply because the foods that studies have shown to be helpful in fighting and preventing cancer are not available or out of my price range. It is very difficult to find meat products that come from animals treated humanely and fed organic feed without hormones or antibiotics added or given to them. When I choose to eat meat bought at a large supermarket, I literally get twisted up inside wondering what it is I am putting in my body. Wondering how it is going to affect me in the long run...if my daughter is going to be caring for me as I die from cancer the way I just did in the last few months with my own mother.

Please put your efforts into supporting locally grown and organic foods. Keep our communities healthy, both economically and physically.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my comments and concerns.

Dylan Emrys

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Support and guidance for your
transition into parenthood.
509-293-9530

Your task is not to seek for love,
but merely to seek and find all
the barriers within yourself that you have
built against it.

~ Rumi