

From: kari winsor <kari@blueearthfarms.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 1:34 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject:

I am a public-health advocate. I work with low income families helping them to access services to improve their children's health and their overall well-being through our community based 501 C non profit corporation Blue Earth Farms (www.blueearthfarms.org). I am deeply concerned about corporate consolidation in the agricultural, processing, and supermarket sectors, as I see its repercussions every day in my work with community members.

The profit structure and incentives of large corporations are distinctly misaligned with positive nutritional and health objectives. As food and agricultural corporations have grown and consolidated, their lobbies have become ever more powerful, ultimately influencing every aspect of US agricultural policy -- with consequences that are entirely detrimental to public health. I am extremely adverse to tax dollars subsidizing the production of corn syrup, for example, which is significantly contributing to the obesity crisis (extremely prevalent in the Lewis County area) -- which is then requiring even more of our tax dollars to address.

I feel very strongly about climate change. The carbon footprint food (1500 miles from farm to plate, on average) is enormous, and seems like an inevitable byproduct of corporate concentration -- large corporations will always want to centralize production to create efficient economies of scale. There are certainly real benefits to efficiency and centralization in some sectors of the economy, but transporting tomatoes or beef or milk across the country -- when much of it could be done just as well more regionally -- doesn't make sense. In addition, it takes away small scale farmers market area and community support.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important matter. I sincerely hope that these issues will be addressed.

Sincerely,

Kari Winsor

www.blueearthfarms.org