From: brandybmw@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 2:17 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Concern for the safety of our food now and in our children's future

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December 30, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply and GMO labeling.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

My main concern is that while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

Furthermore, the foods containing GMOs are not labeled as such which means there is no traceability of the health consequences of these foods, and no option to avoid them for the safety and health of us and our children.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their GM seeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, in the public domain where they truly belong, and please support mandatory labeling of GM foods.

Sincerely,

Brandy Walters