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Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 4:02 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: "Comment"
Attach: Jeff Jensen - Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy.docx

"Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy"

December 30, 2009

Legal Policy Section
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
450 5th Street, NW, Suite 11700
Washington, DC 20001

RE: "Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy"

I am a Hazelnut farmer in North-Central IA and work for a non-profit on sustainable agriculture issues related to alternative crops, ecological services, and rural communities. I am pleased at the opportunity to express my concern and frustration on this issue of agriculture consolidation. I applaud the effort to investigate further and dig deeper into anti-competitive practices of some of these large trans-national corporations that are huge players in the food industry.

Consolidation of resources into fewer and fewer hands is detrimental to efficient markets and natural laws of the production cycle. Furthermore it facilitates economies of scale and unsustainable production systems (think monoculture crops) that are the complete opposite of where we need to be headed in an age of seemingly peak everything.

Nature is diverse and diffuse and our food and energy production system needs to be as well. If the Heffernan Report (available at the Farmers Union website) is any indication we are actually moving towards more consolidation while we need to be moving in the opposite direction. Of course, at some point the inevitable question must be raised; what are we to do about it? I for one would support transparent, smart, and workable limits on the consolidation of corporations and the undue influence they are able to exert given their size.

Thank you for an opportunity to share my thoughts on this very important issue and I look forward to following the issue into the New Year.

Sustainably Yours,

Jeff Jensen