

From: Sara W. Tower <towesa01@gettysburg.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 6:40 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

I am a college student, a inexperienced gardener, a passionate cook, and a conscious eater. For the last few years I have learned more than I ever wanted to know about our American Industrial Food System, and I've been fighting it ever since. While the convenience and cost of the food we eat is astonishingly easy and cheap, I can see that it is also destroying our towns and cities, both here in the U.S. and around the world. Our farmers are barely able to cover their costs and eke out a living, and most could not do it without government assistance or the meddling of corporations. This dependence has led to a rapid decline in the quality of food available to Americans, especially - but not exclusively - low income families.

I am concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector because more corporate control will only lead to a more disparate distribution of wealth, with weaker local economies, and even poorer environmental oversight and health. I have seen what corporate power has to our food, our health, our communities, and the earth. And what we need most is not more food, but REAL food, built upon a system that is equitable within our society and economy, viable for our economy and environment, and bearable for the environment and society. It is food that is fair-trade, organic, local, and sustainable.

I'm only 20 years old, but I dream of the day when my children will go and see their farmer, just like they see their doctor or teacher. I don't want a monopoly, or even an oligopoly, to control what I eat, and subsequently, my health and quality of life. This is absolutely vital to the strength of our economy, the health of our environment, and vitality of our communities.

Thank your the opportunity to submit my comments,

Sara Tower

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State who you are -- parent, teacher, farmer, cook, gardener, community leader, eater... whatever feels relevant.

State that you are concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector.

State your primary reasons why. See the important themes of corporate concentration for some ideas to get you started. This section can be short and informal; don't worry about spelling out the connections too precisely. The important thing is to express from your own experience what most concerns you or how you've been affected by the effects of corporate consolidation in the food industry. Be honest and speak from your heart.

Thank them for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sign your name and address