

From: Cindel <Cindel@bendnet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 6:55 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: I Disagree with Corporate Control of Our Food, and These Are My Reasons ...

Dear U.S. Justice Department:

I am one of many concerned citizens of this amazing country. I have numerous food allergies, and I work with women who have very little safe food

to consume plus I've read about, seen, and experienced the connection between nutritious food and poor mental/physical health.

I am seriously concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector for the following reasons:

1.) Much of what we eat in this country seems to be made with corn products = corn products that have been genetically modified, however

2.) I have not noticed labels on my food indicating what exact area it was grown, what chemicals it has on it, if it has been irradiated, or even if it

has been genetically modified = this frightens me and consequently I feel like a pawn of the big companies, not a consumer who is empowered to

make healthful decisions that are good for me;

3.) I'm also deeply concerned that just one company controls the majority of the seeds in this nation and also threatens farmers who don't buy its

seeds ... not just a few times but continuously = not only is that bullying, but it is completely unfair to the American consumer!

4.) It breaks my heart that processed items are what is affordable to those with low incomes but are poor examples of nutrition versus healthy foods

being expensive (Ramen noodles versus locally grown, organic carrots for example) = at first glance it could appear that the rich of this nation are

being rewarded with edible and healthy food and the poor are being punished with cheap fillers, additives, and colorants;

5.) Cows, fowl, pigs, etc. are raised in squalid conditions on huge industrial feedlots, then pumped full of antibiotics (that free-range, vegetarian fed

animals do not require). These practices cause harm to our children;

6.) The manner in which fruits, vegetables, nuts/seeds, etc. are grown wreaks havoc on our environment and water supply, including poisoning the

soil, threatening our long-term food security, and placing people at risk = an Environmental Working Group report was quoted as saying "Weed

killers were found in tap water of 28 out of 29 cities tested... the results of these tests reveal widespread contamination of tap water with many

different pesticides at levels that present serious health risks... we estimate that 45,000 infants in these 29 cities drank infant formula reconstituted

with tap water contaminated with multiple weed killers."; and

7.) There are many other problems I could name but I will end with this: local farms that provide safe and nutritious food are being forced out of

business because these small farmers cannot compete with the prices set by industrial farms/consolidated buyers = big businesses are not involved

in producing food that is healthier, safer, or tastier ... I would counter that these industrial farms are, instead, breaking down the backbone of

America and contributing to poorer health, and weaker individuals.

THANK YOU for being willing to listen to my concerns = I appreciate it!!

with blessing,

--Cindel Mikesell

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DUTY with HONOR

Faith ~ Zeal with Knowledge ~ Joy ~ Comfort
