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Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 6:56 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Concerns about food supply

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments about our food supply. As a citizen, a parent and grandparent, a psychologist, and a consumer, I am very concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector.

I have had chronic autoimmune health problems most of my adult life (I am now in my late 50s). Over the past year, I have been under the care of a health professional who stresses eating natural and healthy foods, and this has noticeably improved my health. It has often been a challenge to find reasonably priced, nutritious foods that are not loaded with unwanted ingredients such as high-fructose corn syrup, unpronounceable chemicals, and genetically modified products.

I am also concerned about the safety of food when I read and see information on the vast, centralized processing plants that have become commonplace. I do believe that these plants are inhumane systems both for the handling livestock and for the well-being of the people who do the processing work. The more frequent and severe e.coli outbreaks of the past few years are a reminder of the inadequacies of massive processing facilities and completely insufficient inspection and control by government agencies.

I believe that the causes of healthy, high quality food and of social justice would be better served by vigorous enforcement of antitrust policies and the decentralization of our food supply.

Thank you.

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