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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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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."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is not only anti-competitive behavior, but it is morally wrong, in my experience and opinion.

I've been growing my food organically whenever and wherever I can for over 35 years, and I feel Monsanto's mission is a real danger to us all. They should not be holding high government positions either. I support President Obama, but I feel his appointments of Monsanto personnel to govt. positions is very worrisome. Their goal is to make money and commodify life forms through these arrogant patents. And there is still no testing being done on the safety of genetically modified organisms. They are meant to be used with harmful pesticides and herbicides. And it's already too late to control them in some areas. This has adversely affected the organic crops of neighboring growers, and leaves us all to be guinea pigs when it comes to the safety of our food. Plus, THEY FINE FARMERS FOR SAVING SEED. Read about Percy Schmeiser's case in Canada. He farmed and saved his seed for decades only to have Monsanto claim that he was growing their seed illegally when they found a genetic match to their patented canola on his neighboring farm. His story is not unique, but disturbing. Read the timeline here to see what lengths Monsanto will go to monopolize their control of our food.

http://www.historycommons.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=seeds_tmIn&seeds_legal_actions=seeds_legalMonsantoVSchmeiser

PLEASE, rein these corporate monsters in, before we all have to suffer from their insane greed.

Sincerely,

Kay Knack