

**From:** rociofaith@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2009 10:07 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments to seriously consider

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Rocio Coons  
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December 31, 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 extremely 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 anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals. Chemicals that are being fed to our children in our homes and causing much damage.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

No Farmer should have to fear using their own seed nor should they be singled out by Monsanto and be forced to comply to their patent laws when no one owns original seed. It is simply disgusting to see how many farmers have lost their land due to Monsanto's greed in gaining control over seed. Farmers have had no choice but to submit or give up. Those rare that are still standing should not stand alone.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect

plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

It is completely appalling that the FDA is run by previous Monsanto's executives. It makes their decision unbiased as much as unethical as they have represented Monsanto's best interest in the past. The FDA should be run by non-biased and NOT non-previous employees of Monsanto or any other company that seeks to gain wealth and economic growth by altering our food in any way.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

Rocio Coons