

From: Beth Borchelt <beth_borchelt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 2:34 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

Dear Attorney General Eric Holder and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack,

I am a mother, a public health advocate and student, and formerly a full-time healthcare educator. Most importantly, I am responsible for the food that me and my family eats.

I am very concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agricultural sector. Three points that affect me and my choices personally include nutritional value, food costs, and health costs. It is harder and harder to find healthy, locally produced foods... thank goodness for farmer markets! But the reality is that it can be difficult to create affordable, nutritious and healthy meals with all the demands a working mother faces day-to-day. It is also about the bigger picture. Mass-produced food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute our water, poison our soil, and threaten our long-term food security. Local farms are going out of business, because small farmers can't compete with prices set by industrial and consolidated buyers. How can this country in good conscience provide subsidies to large, corporate food producers and not care for the small farm which produces more humane, more nutritious and more environmentally friendly food? This certainly seems out of balance to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns on this matter. I look forward to following this investigation in the coming year.

Kind regards,
Beth Brown
1812 Thomas Avenue
Charlotte NC 28205

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)