

From: Deb Baumann <db@baumann.vg>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 3:38 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Public Comment - stop monopolization of our food supply

cc: President Obama
Congressperson Mike Thompson
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer

Dear USDOJ,

After living amidst concrete and freeways in Los Angeles for nearly 3 decades, I moved to a rural environment in Northern California specifically because I had lost faith in the ability of the USDA, FDA or any other branch of US Government to protect myself and my family from Corporate America's monopolization of our food system.

I have seen the quality of food sold in stores go down, down, down, while negative health issues of Americans soar due to bad diet (I work in the health care industry). Moving to a place where we can grow our own food seemed to be the only defense an American citizen has, any longer, in the face of Corporate monopolization of our nation's food supply.

Our family was able to escape the corporate-food trap, but hundreds of millions do not have that option. For their sake, you MUST do a better job of protecting the health, diversity and freedom of our food supply.

Recent congressional Bills do not appear to be aimed at finding real solutions. Instead, they appear to be tailored to make Corporate Agriculture and Corporate Food Processors an even bigger piece of the pie.

The problems in our nation's food chain are ALL related to large-scale monocultural farming and food processing. Yet, so-called "food safety" bills would punish organic and small scale farmers for the sins of large-scale factory or industrial farming. The end result would be fewer healthy farms, and more unhealthy farming practices.

The USDA and FDA need to stop creating barriers to small-scale farming, do more to promote and support small-scale farming. This is what American consumers want. This is what American citizens are entitled to -- protection from monopolistic practices that undermine our health and our freedom.

Sincerely,

Debra Baumann

Residing in Upper Lake CA 95485

Mailing address:
PO Box 1411
Santa Rosa CA 95402