

From: meghickman@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2010 5:53 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Meg Hickman
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January 4, 2010

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

As an organic consumer, I am concerned about the monopolies of American agribusiness affecting the pesticide contamination of our soil, ground water, and crops. In particular, I and my colleagues abhor the regulatory advantages that the conscienceless, profit-motivated corporate giant, Monsanto, exercises being in majority control over the world-wide seed supply. Why are not anti-trust laws on the books, being enforced? Where is social justice and the consumer safety agenda in the Obama Administration? Let's move beyond the corporate, agribusiness self-interest of the past eighty years.

By being allowed to buy 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.

In addition, my key 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.

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 controlled by corporate self-interest. Anti-trust laws must be enforced and Bush-appointed, corporate agenda judges be replaced.

The most evil 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.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we must protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I request that the Department's investigation acknowledge the

anti-competitive behavior of agribusiness corporations,
including Monsanto, Cargill, ConAgra, ADM, Staley, and many others.
My colleagues and I are watching your actions as regulators and we hold
you accountable for the safety of the food chain in the USA on planet
Earth and for the benefit of its citizens. What goes around, comes around.
It's your karma that money can not repair.

Sincerely,

Meg Hickman