

From: anderson.katielynn@gmail.com
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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Katie Lynn Anderson
6021 Pershing Ave, #1E
St Louis, MO 63112-1338

January 4, 2010

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I appreciate 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 food consumer and urban community farmer, I feel 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 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.

I fear the vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so will be put out of commission by a company who wittles down varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

Further, I fear the cross-pollinateion of Monsanto's chemically-dependant seeds with organic and traditional varieties, which will destroy their unique characteristics and infect 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.

In the same way we protect animal species from extinction, I value the protection of plant species. I feel tremendously concerned about the tens of thousands of food varieties that companies like Monsanto are consciously eliminating.

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,

Katie Lynn Anderson