

**From:** cculhane@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2010 1:38 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment on MONSANTO

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January 6, 2010

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Something must be done about this corporation's illegal actions. They abuse workers, the environment, human health, animals, and the economy, in addition to abusing the legal system and compromising the integrity of government agencies such as the EPA and FDA.

It is the government's JOB to stop monopolies like this that are doing such damage to its citizens.

The text below is essentially a form letter but I wanted to add that as a law student I find it dubious that Clarence Thomas was the justice who wrote the majority opinion on patenting seeds--he worked for Monsanto in the 1970s. While the legal principles of patenting may be sound, Monsanto's tactics, and the monopolizing effect on the market, are illegal. They are endangering the future of not just agriculture, but our world's plants. Their actions all over the globe are so damaging but most other countries do not have a Department of Justice to examine them. Please do not fail to thoroughly investigate the repercussions of this corporation's methods.

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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."

I am 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.

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

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,

Coco Culhane