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Sent: Friday, January 8, 2010 2:13 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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January 8, 2010

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

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."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life (which is very, very wrong and a death sentence for humanity), 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. Monsanto did not create the seeds or plants that have been feeding human beings and animals for millions of years, God did. The non-GMO seeds belong to everyone.

I am also greatly concerned about Monsanto contaminating crops with their seeds without respect to the farmers who want to grow crops clean of Monsanto's product. They are then allow to sue these farmers, and make them pay Monsanto. Does Monsanto purposefully contaminate crops? Why not, they will profit from this and have no penalty. It seems like a mafia monopoly. There is something wrong with this picture and I know that you know it. Please do the right thing.

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. How could Monsanto even aquire a patent of such diversity of seeds when they did not create them? Is that in our constitution?

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 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 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,

Laura Carlson-Ziegler