

From: scarab.mask@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, January 9, 2010 1:38 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Genetically modified foods and the Monsanto Corporation

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US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

President Obama:

I have decided to write this letter in the spirit of constructive criticism that will hopefully better everyone involved, and maybe give you a new perspective.

First, I would like to applaud your decision to have a very open administration that is conducive to communication with the populace, for knowledge and communication is power.

However, I see something that concerns me greatly, and I would like to get your feedback on this particular subject. Perhaps I should have checked "environment" or "health care" since this is pertinent to both issues.

At this point, this letter has said nothing about the main topic: the appointment of Mike Taylor as the head of the FDA. You may ask why this is very concerning to me, and the reason is the fact that Mr. Taylor was the former president of the Monsanto Corporation.

I understand that you are a busy man, and may, or may not be aware of the dirty history of this particular company, which includes being the leading producer of genetically engineered seeds (90%), bovine growth hormone, extensive litigation, and aggressive lobbying practices.

GMO foods are very controversial for a number of reasons, but right now I'd like to stick to why this is so concerning in conjunction with the Monsanto Corporation. There has been quite a bit of research indicating that genetically modified foods may be deleterious to health. Sometimes, this is contested, but it leads me to wonder just how safe these products are for the market. Some studies have indicated that it causes allergies, liver damage, and other strange results. What's more, these genetically modified crops often can cross pollinate with normal plants, thus perpetuating the questionable plants.

To show you how hair-raising this can get, I will quote something from a website.

Today, consumers eat these foods daily without knowing the potential health risks. In 2003, Jeffrey Smith explained them in his book titled "Seeds of Deception." He revealed that efforts to inform the public have been quashed, reliable science has been buried, and consider what happened to two distinguished scientists - UC Berkeley's Ignacio Chapela and former Scotland Rowett Research Institute researcher and world's leading lectins

and plant genetic modification expert, Arpad Pusztai. They were vilified, hounded, and threatened for their research, and in the case of Pusztai, fired from his job for doing it.

He believed in the promise of GM foods, was commissioned to study them, and conducted the first ever independent one on them anywhere. Like other researchers since, he was shocked by his findings. Rats fed GM potatoes had smaller livers, hearts, testicles and brains, damaged immune systems, and showed structural changes in their white blood cells making them more vulnerable to infection and disease compared to other rats fed non-GMO potatoes. It got worse. Thymus and spleen damage showed up; enlarged tissues, including the pancreas and intestines; and there were cases of liver atrophy as well as significant proliferation of stomach and intestines cells that could be a sign of greater future risk of cancer. Equally alarming, results showed up after 10 days of testing, and they persisted after 110 days that's the human equivalent of 10 years.

Later independent studies confirmed what Pusztai learned, and Smith published information on them in his 2007 book called "Genetic Roulette: The Documented Health Risks of Genetically Engineered Foods." The book is encyclopedic in depth, an invaluable comprehensive source, and this article reviews some of the shocking data in it.

In his introduction, Smith cites the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) policy statement on GM food safety without a shred of evidence to back it. It supported GHW Bush's Executive Order that GMOs are "substantially equivalent" to ordinary seeds and crops and need no government regulation.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=8148>

Shouldn't these be regulated and tested rigorously before experimenting on a populace?

However, it doesn't just stop here. I've done my research, and also found that Monsanto was responsible for creating agent orange, as well as being responsible for 50 superfund sites in the United states alone. These are very hazardous toxic waste sites.

Monsanto even employed child labor in in India. What makes this all the more horrifying is the fact that these children must handle poisonous pesticides and are barely paid.

And now, we've come full circle. I've also discovered that this evil company also has significant lobbying power.

Michael R. Taylor was an assistant to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) commissioner before he left to work for a law firm on gaining FDA approval of Monsanto's artificial growth hormone in the 1980s.

Then, deputy official, now head of the FDA. What next?

Sincerely,

Britt Walker