From: karenjoryan@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 1:43 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

Karen Ryan
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January 12, 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.

When you give a large company such authority over the plant life, it will be difficult to 'reign them in' later if necessary. Please do not let this become a similar situation as the beef industry, who hollered loudly when Americans were told to protect their health by decreasing their beef intake. We've seen who won that battle.

As the future of American health care is in your hands, sir, I implore you to decrease health care costs by taking a stand and preventing disease in the first place with good nutrition.

Personally, I am not as concerned about the monopoly of Monsanto as the health impact they have on the unknowing American consumer. As a nutritionist, I see first hand the effects of poor nutrition on our elderly and even in my own family.

I am one of the many without health insurance and am disgusted by the impact Monsanto has had on our food supply and what it now costs us to take care of those who do not take care of themselves.

In essence, by allowing them to take control over the seed supply, you allow them to instigate the total cost of health care in the United States.

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,

Karen Ryan