

**From:** kaufenbergssnd@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010 11:43 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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Ann Kaufenberg  
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January 13, 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 and gardener, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting seeds, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior. It subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a monopoly.

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.

These chemicals are dangerous.

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,

Ann Kaufenberg  
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