From: Robert Wargo <rwargo04@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:55 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Big corporations, especially Monsanto in this instance, should not be provided legal means to create a monopoly. The United States is presumed to practice a captalist ecomony. Therefore, the success or failure of a company's product shoud be based on the consumer's choice. Not labeling food denies consumers the ability to make informed decisions on what to buy.

I have heard and read arguments that genetically modified food is safe and that the general public would not buy genetically modified foods due to unfound panic or lack of knowledge. This argument should not be the basis to allow any company to provide products without disclosing its contents. The argument also presumes that the population needs to be told what is good for them. Citizens are capable of researching, weighing the pros and cons and arriving at a decision that is best for us. If I wanted to be told what was good for me I have the option to move to Venezuela, Iran or any country whose government is run by dictatorship or oligarchy. The lack of requirement to label foods is prohibitive to consumer choice and facilitates Monsanto and others to create monopolies.

Antitrust lawsuits were brought against both AT&T and Microsoft because there business practices provided them with an "unfair" competitive advantage. Monsanto's business practices seem eerily similar. Farmers who chose to use Monsanto's "Roundup Ready" seeds sign contracts agreeing not to save seeds for planting the following year thereby insuring that the farmers will have to buy more of Monsanto's seed. In some instances the seeds are wind blown into a neighboring farm where Monsanto seed isn't being planted and the owning farmer happens to save his seed. Monsanto then files lawsuits against these farmers with claims of patent law violations. I have yet to hear of a farmer that can match a company the size of Monsanto dollar for dollar to pay legal fees. Monsanto leverages an "unfair" competitive advantage.

To ensure consumer choice in the market place and prevent large corporations from creating monopolies through "unfair" competitive advantage I implore you to mandate all food be labelled to fully disclose its contents and origins.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Robert J. Wargo

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