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Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 10:18 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Monsanto

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December 18, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

I'd like to make a few comments on the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy." I, like many other citizens am very concerned about Monsanto's control over the nation's (and the world's) seed supply.

Monsanto has demonstrated anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

My main concern, however, 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. The natural world's seed supply which has been cultivated and built upon over millennia should not be allowed to be bought up by any company, much less one bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most alarming part of Monsanto's business model is that their mutant seeds can cross-pollinate with natural varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence. In 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 in the marketplace, if not in the public domain.

Sincerely,

Matt Raufman