

From: ingalapuma@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 10:29 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to let you know that I've been affected by corporate consolidation within the food industry. The main issues I have are that, as a parent of a one year old, it is cheaper to buy junk food and genetically modified foods treated with pesticides, than organic food without chemicals and for which I know the source. When large corporations get farm subsidies, it makes it impossible for people who want to eat healthy to do so without either growing their own food or being independently wealthy. I have had to monitor every single bite that goes into my babies' mouth for damaging pesticides, herbicides and e. coli. To avoid these hazards, I stick with organic foods and try to grow my own, but as a graduate student, it is slim pickings out there. I know that my parents, in rural Georgia, have little choice in the foods that they are offered in the local grocer and frequently HAVE to buy foods with unknown levels of chemicals and genetically modified content. The thought of all the feces on the hides of all of those feedlot cows makes me sick just thinking about it; I'm sure not going to chance putting that e.coli and weird beef filler into my babies' mouth! In addition to not having to tell me what chemicals and random genes are in my foods, large agricultural corporations have been awarded through a misguided judicial decision, the 'right to life' in the patenting of their seeds and are policing and suing farmers into submission who just happen to get their seed blown in from a neighbors field. How ridiculous and unfair can you get! Controlling everything from the seed to the seller is a monopoly by any definition. Corn, beef and poultry are the source of many of my complaints. Competition and fair pricing as well as monitoring and fines for environmental damage (including pesticide, herbicide and pharmaceutical loads in babies) and unhealthy work practices have been a long time coming. Please DO something to get us out of this mess and back to real American values of family and the rights to life -without chemicals, liberty- to choose healthy foods and the happiness that comes with being a good Mom!

Thankyou,
Inga La Puma
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