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Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 8:23 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Organic Could Sequester 40% of Greenhouse Gas Emissions!

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December 19, 2009

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."

We remain deeply concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply -- even more so because we are organic consumers. Monsanto has now gained control over as much as 90% of seed genetics by buying seed companies and aggressively patenting their forms of genetically altered organisms. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

However, our 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.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the past 10,000 or more years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we must protect plant species -- especially the tens of thousands of food varieties -- from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

We strongly urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the vital importance of keeping seeds, the foundation of our food supply, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Thank you for all you do for food safety and consumer education.

Cordially,

Sharon and Ken Grant
508--78-5-01