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Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 10:38 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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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."

Because Monsanto "owns" so many seeds and forbids collecting for reuse as has always been the way of a true farmer, they are actually taking part in destroying the American farm economy. They are such a big monopoly that honest farmers are driven out of business...not because of poor farming practices, but because Monsanto has lots of lawyers and money to fight who ever they choose to fight among the little guys. Being sued because one follows sensible farming practice of saving seed is not an option in a reasonable world.

Another 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. It is fine that this be an offering, but not a requisit. In fact, I prefer not to eat their food because I do not appreciate genetically modified foods or chemicals in my food. It should be my choice to do so.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so 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 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. Monsanto is conducting business for their own profit , not for the good of the world. I want organic food and a variety of food and free choice as to how to grow crops. This is definitely not on Monsanto's plate. They want complete control at the expense of my freedom of choice.

Sincerely,

Randy Thill
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