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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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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."

As an organic consumer, and nutritionist, I am alarmed about Monsanto's control over the seed supply and their fostering of genetically engineered crops on an uninformed public. There have been no studies on the nutritional values of these GMO crops, nor the long term effects of eating these foods - at least none that have been released. We do have studies on the vast differences in nutritional values when pesticides are used. Often they are grown into the plant and cannot be washed off. Monsanto lied to farmers claiming that they would save money on pesticides but instead the plants have formed molds and other problems that required more costly chemicals to control. (Hawaiian pineapple growers went out of business). I advocate organically grown foods (non GMO) and this choice will be taken away if these seeds make their way into many clean farms and forests. The health of our populace will be adversely affected by these unnatural plants. Plus Monsanto is a huge monopoly that must be regulated. Their seeds fly into an organic farm, and the farmer has to pay them for ruining his business.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. 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.

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.

We need you to protect our food supply from the monopoly that is Monsanto and the devastating effects of one company controlling the world's food supply.

Sincerely,

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