

From: Laura Riley <purpledollfin@rocketmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 20, 2009 6:23 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 am a two-time breast cancer survivor. During my first bout with cancer I maintained the Standard American Diet. I thought I was eating healthy foods; at least it was a balanced diet. In one year my cancer returned. During my second bout with cancer I was fortunate enough to encounter a wonderful integrative medical doctor who introduced me to the benefits of an organic diet, devoid of pesticides, herbicides, genetic modification and other artificial chemicals that disrupt hormonal balances and create disease. I am now cancer-free. With access to proper nutrition, I should remain that way. Thankfully, a local organic growing cooperative allows me access to healthful fruits and vegetables.

Factory farming and chemical companies are NOT invested in the health of our nation. They are in the business of passing off poor nutrition in pretty packages with no controls in place. The steady health decline of our nation is directly attributable to these business interests. We are a nation of overfed, but terribly malnourished citizens. The quality of our food supply means **everything**. It is the fuel for human engines. Poor fuel equates to poor performance of the engine. Everyone knows not to put sugar in their gas tank or calamity results, yet few people are informed that eating the typical American diet is no different than sugar in a gas tank. We eat what is sold and wonder why we suffer from obesity, depression, ADHD, heart disease and cancer (just to name some of the top health issues).

I am only one person with no clout to speak of, but I am concerned about others, especially my children and grandchildren. What chance do they have to avoid disease when their bodies are constantly assaulted by unnatural chemicals and hormones in their food? I am only 48 years old, and as a child I rarely heard of someone having cancer. There may have been one obese child in a whole grade level. Now cancer and obesity are rampant health problems. The one big thing that has changed since my childhood is how we produce food.

Someone in power needs to acknowledge the connection between our food and our health or we are doomed to suffer greater and greater health losses due to ignorance of the situation. Lobbyists and corporations should not control our citizens' health. It's like the inmates running a prison. Upton Sinclair said it best "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his job depends on not understanding it." I only hope someone whose job depends on understanding it gets involved in a significant way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my commentary.

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