

From: tregaron@gmail.com
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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Monsanto's attempt to hi-jack food production

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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, I am very concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

On a purely health issue I am unable to eat most breads, cakes and other products that contain genetically modified seeds because they play havoc with my digestive system. Only when I am in England can I eat these foodstuffs without complications and as you know, Monsanto has been unable to convince the Ministry of Agriculture in the UK to follow America's example in believing that profit is more important than the health of the nation.

I understand that in buying seed companies, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is blatant anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices as they please.

However, my 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 last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and destroyed by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious and dangerous part of Monsanto's business model is that, as everyone is aware, their 'Frankenseeds' will cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying the hitherto unique characteristics of those varieties and further 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.

I urge you to include in your investigation a consideration of the importance of maintaining seeds, the very foundation of human life, at the very least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Yours,

Michael R. Tregaron