

From: Sandra Larsen <sandra.l.larsen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 12:33 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

I am frankly appalled that there is so much co-mingling of people who worked for the food corporations and now work for the FDA or other agencies that are involved with the food we eat in this country.

I'm not a vegetarian, but I can tell you that I will start buying locally from organic farmers because I cannot support the way these animals are being treated by the large food corporations who are interested only in PROFIT and not interested in the welfare of the animals or the people they're selling this second rate product to.

Farmers shouldn't be threatened when they want to work independently, people shouldn't be sued when they have a gripe about the food they're being sold, and we should be able to depend on the FDA to make sure there is transparency in all aspects of the food we're being sold. Why do the companies have all the protection and the consumers have NONE? What about Kevin's Law, that keeps getting set aside time after time? Why is Kevin's mother unable to criticize the industry that killed her child, under threat of lawsuits? What kind of country are we living in, that our government goes along with and supports the people who poison us?

Companies such as Monsanto should not be able to control all aspects of the soy industry, nor should they be able to so easily (and with the blessing of our government) threaten farmers who don't buy their seed.

Food quality in this country, earth friendly growing policies, and quality of work conditions in the food industry should be held to the highest standards. Otherwise you are just part of the corporate game that is killing us for the almighty dollar.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sandra Larsen

, 98632