

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216

One Hundred Tenth Congress

March 26, 2007

The Honorable Thomas O. Barnett
Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Barnett:

I am writing to encourage your most vigorous efforts to ensure that the agricultural biotechnology marketplace is and remains competitive. Continued innovation in this sector will be increasingly important to agricultural producers, and ultimately to consumers in America and throughout the world. The proposed acquisition by Monsanto Corporation of the Delta and Pine Land Company, currently under review in the Division, is only one of many changes taking place or on the horizon in this marketplace.

In all likelihood, innovations developed within the next few years will hold the key to feeding the world's burgeoning population. Since we cannot be certain which innovations those will be, or where they will come from, it is important that we protect the innovative process itself from anticompetitive restrictions, arrangements, or mergers that would foreclose any avenue for innovation or dampen any incentives for it.

I urge you to closely monitor developments in these markets, on an ongoing basis, and to take whatever enforcement actions may be warranted to ensure that competitive choice and access are preserved at all levels in the agricultural research, development, manufacture, and supply chain, so that producers, consumers, and the economy will continue to receive the full benefits that competition provides.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Conyers, Jr.
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Lamar Smith
The Honorable Steve Chabot