



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

September 13, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your August 16, 2016 letter to the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission regarding two proposed mergers involving agricultural biotechnology and seed markets – the proposed acquisition of the Dow Chemical Company by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company and the proposed acquisition of Syngenta AG by China National Chemical Corporation. We appreciate receiving the information and concerns presented in your correspondence, in which you request collaboration, as appropriate, between the Commission, the Department's Antitrust Division, and USDA in evaluating each proposed merger's effects on competition and consumers.

As you know, a number of statutory prohibitions and the Rules of the Commission prevent me from disclosing the existence or details of nonpublic Commission reviews. I can assure you, however, that the Commission, the Antitrust Division, and USDA have a strong track record of providing assistance to each other in line with our respective missions of maintaining competitive conditions in agricultural markets. I also can assure you that the Commission is dedicated to protecting competition and consumers and will take appropriate action against any act or practice in the marketplace that violates any statute we enforce.

Thank you again for bringing your observations and thoughts to our attention. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to have your staff call Jeanne Bumpus, the Director of our Office of Congressional Relations, at (202) 326-2195.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edith Ramirez".

Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman