



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 14, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This responds to your letter to the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division dated August 16, 2016, regarding the proposed merger of The Dow Chemical Company and E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co. and consolidation in the agriculture biotechnology and seed industry. The Department of Justice (the Department) appreciates having the benefit of your perspective.

The Department is committed to protecting competition through vigorous enforcement of section 7 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18, which prohibits mergers and acquisitions that may substantially lessen competition. While the Department cannot comment on active investigations, please be assured that the Antitrust Division will conduct a thorough investigation of the proposed merger's effect on competition, and in particular, on innovation in the agricultural sector, and will consider the issues you raise in your letter. In addition, the Department will coordinate and collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Trade Commission, as appropriate, on the impact of this and other proposed mergers in the agricultural sector.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "PJ Kadzik".

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General