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**FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS FIRST-EVER HALT
TO PLANTING OF A COMMERCIALIZED
GENETICALLY-ALTERED CROP**

**Judge Breyer Orders Complete Environmental Review of
Monsanto's Gene-Altered Alfalfa**

San Francisco, CA, May 3, 2007 - A Federal judge today made a final ruling that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 2005 approval of Monsanto's genetically engineered (GE) "Roundup Ready" alfalfa was illegal. The Judge called on USDA to ban any further planting of the GE seed until it conducts a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the GE crop.

In the decision, Judge Charles Breyer in the Federal Northern District of California affirmed his preliminary ruling, which echoed the Center for Food Safety's arguments in their lawsuit against USDA, that the crop could harm the environment and contaminate natural alfalfa. Today's ruling also requires Forage Genetics to provide the locations of all existing Roundup Ready alfalfa plots to USDA within 30 days. The Judge ordered USDA to make the location of these plots "publicly available as soon as practicable" so that growers of organic and conventional alfalfa "can test their own crops to determine if there has been contamination."

"The judge's order to make public the location of Roundup Ready alfalfa fields is a critical part of the decision," said Blaine Schmaltz, an organic alfalfa seed producer from Rugby N.D. , and spokesperson for the Dakota Resource Council (DRC) and Western Organization of Resource Councils. "It allows GM-free and organic producers like me to make sound planting decisions."

"This permanent halt to the planting of this risky crop is a great victory for the environment," said Will Rostov, a Senior Attorney for CFS. "Roundup Ready alfalfa poses threats to farmers, to our export markets, and to the environment. We expect the USDA to abide by the law and insure that American farmers are protected from genetic contamination."

Today's decision is consistent with Judge Breyer's ruling of February 13 th, in which Judge Breyer found that the USDA failed to address concerns that Roundup Ready alfalfa will contaminate conventional and organic alfalfa. In calling today for a permanent injunction, Judge Breyer noted that contamination of natural and organic alfalfa by the GE variety has already occurred, and noted that "Such contamination is irreparable environmental harm. The contamination cannot be undone."

“I’m hopeful that Judge Breyer's precedent-setting ruling will induce a rebirth of values at the USDA, in particular, and federal regulatory agencies generally,” said Dean Hulse, an organic food consumer from Fargo, N.D. , and past chair of DRC. “The USDA’s role with respect to regulating transgenic crops should be that of a watch dog, not a lap dog.”

The permanent injunction ordered today by Judge Breyer follows his ruling last month finding that USDA violated national environmental laws by approving GE alfalfa without a full Environmental Impact Statement. Monsanto and Forage Genetics, the developers of the GE alfalfa seed, failed to convince the Judge that their interests outweighed the public interest in food safety, freedom to farm natural crops, and environmental protection. In fact, Judge Breyer specifically noted that Monsanto’s fear of lost sales “*does not outweigh the potential irreparable damage to the environment.*”

“This ruling is good news for organic farmers and most conventional farmers across the country,” said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center. “This crop represents a very real threat to their corps and their livelihood. This ruling is a turning point in the regulation of biotech crops in this country,” Kimbrell concluded.

The Center for Food Safety initiated the legal action resulting in today’s ruling in February 2006, representing itself and the following co-plaintiffs in the suit: Western Organization of Resource Councils, National Family Farm Coalition, Sierra Club, Beyond Pesticides, Cornucopia Institute, Dakota Resource Council, Trask Family Seeds, and Geertson Seed Farms. For more information, please visit www.worc.org.

WORC is a network representing farmers, ranchers, and consumers in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Dakota Resource Council is a member of WORC.