



For Immediate Release

March 29, 2007

Contact: John Boyd, 804.691.8528

Godzillian monopoly

Farmers to rally DOJ to block \$1.5 billion biotech merger

WASHINGTON – (March 29, 2007) - The National Black Farmers Association will rally at the U.S. Department of Justice Wednesday, April 4, to urge the agency to block the proposed \$1.5 billion Monsanto bio-technology merger that would reduce competition and adversely crush small farmers.

Dr. John Boyd, president of the community-based farmers' advocacy group of more than 66,000 members, will lead a press conference - **10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW** - to announce his group's opposition to the proposed merger between agricultural Monsanto Corporation and the Delta and Pine Land Company, the largest cottonseed company in the country.

“If this merger goes through, it will create a Godzillian-monopoly that will have a drastic effect on black and other small farmers around the country,” said Boyd, whose organization joins the growing chorus of agriculture and consumer groups, legal experts and politicians who have registered their opposition.

“We believe that Monsanto has and will continue, through this merger, to violate federal and state antitrust laws by using its dominance in biotech seeds and herbicides to balloon prices and fees while curtailing competition and choice,” Boyd said. “Thus, we’ll be faced with a gigantic, fiery-breathing monopoly whose sole interest will be itself.”

The Department of Justice is now conducting a review of the \$1.5 billion deal and whether the acquisition would violate antitrust rules. Legal experts expect the department to issue its decision this month.

Several Democratic senators have criticized the Bush administration for what has been described as lax enforcement of U.S. antitrust law and have urged for extra scrutiny of this proposed merger.

Boyd has petitioned the House Judiciary Committee to hold hearings on the matter and has indicated the NBFA is prepared to file suit to seek an injunction against the merger.

For more information about the NBFA please visit www.blackfarmers.org/ or contact Dr. John Boyd at 804.6918528.

###