



Legislation by Blackmail?

Monsanto has reportedly convinced Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) to push for a rider to the end-of-year appropriations bill. The rider would keep corporations from having to label GMOS.

We also learned today that the FDA has approved GMO salmon. Alaska is the only state that has a law in place to require labels on GMO salmon.

Sen. Stabenow's rider probably won't preempt labels on GMO salmon because it's an animal, not a plant.

But the rider will make it impossible for states or the FDA to require labels on foods containing GMOS derived from plants. We will do everything in our power to stop this rider, or any last-ditch effort to stomp out GMO labeling laws. If we fail, we will ramp up the largest Big Food Boycott in history.

Sources told *PoliticoPro* that Stabenow wants to preempt states from enacting their own GMO labeling laws, before Vermont's law takes effect in July. Under her plan, Stabenow's bill would "sunset" after an unspecified period of time, unless corporations come up with a voluntary, not mandatory, labeling scheme.

How will Sen. Stabenow convince her fellow Senators to pass a law that is opposed by 90% of Americans? By forcing Congress, and the President, to either support the legislation—or risk shutting down the government. It's blackmail, pure and simple. Brought to you by Monsanto, Big Food and the politicians who represent their interests, not yours.

Please donate today to keep Monsanto and Sen. Debbie Stabenow from blackmailing Congress into taking away your right to GMO labels on your food, and to help us prepare a massive Big Food Boycott.

Donate to the OCA (tax-deductible): orgcns.org/1OLd6Zm

Donate to the Organic Consumers Fund (non-tax-deductible, necessary for our legislative efforts): orgcns.org/1MrPDi7

The Whole Toxic Enchilada

Last week, while we waited for the EPA to announce whether or not the agency will give Monsanto's Roundup a free pass by green lighting the use of glyphosate for another 15 years, the EPA's counterpart in the EU made its own big announcement. Glyphosate is "unlikely to cause cancer" said the authors of the new report by the European Union Food Safety Authority (EFSA). That headline, music to Monsanto's ears, seemed to fly in the face of the findings published earlier this year by the World Health Organization (WHO). After extensive review of the evidence, all 17 of WHO's leading cancer experts said glyphosate is a "probable human carcinogen."

Sustainable Pulse (SP), publisher of global news on GMOS and other food-related issues, quickly reported the glaring omission made by the majority of news sources reporting on EFSA's findings. According to SP, what EFSA really concluded is this: Glyphosate by itself doesn't cause cancer (a fact other scientists dispute). But products like Monsanto's Roundup, which contain glyphosate and other additives and chemicals that are essential to making the herbicide work? That's another, or in this case, the rest of the story. orgcns.org/1lcALsM



Shameless

You would think that even the smallest bit of evidence suggesting a pesticide causes birth defects, brain damage and mental disorders in children would be enough for our government to ban the use of that toxin on our food. And yet, it's taken nearly a decade—and a court ordered mandate—to get the EPA to propose banning Dow's child-poisoning chlorpyrifos from our food system. Chlorpyrifos, better known as Dursban and Lorsban, is a neurotoxic organophosphate.

Here's how Beyond Pesticides describes it: "Chlorpyrifos is highly neurotoxic. It is a cholinesterase inhibitor, which means that it can bind irreversibly to acetylcholine esterase (AChE), an essential enzyme for normal nerve impulse transmission, inactivating the enzyme. Studies have documented that exposure to even low levels of organophosphates like chlorpyrifos during pregnancy can impair learning, change brain function, and alter thyroid levels of offspring into adulthood. The evidence of the neurotoxic dangers associated with chlorpyrifos' exposure is extensive and consistent." See the Pesticide Induced-Disease Database for more information.

The EPA currently allows low-level residues of chlorpyrifos on food, in spite of recent studies which suggest that low levels of chlorpyrifos and other endocrine disrupters may actually be more toxic than higher levels.

Take Action: orgcns.org/1PAqoMG

Hear, Hear!

On November 17, OCA and Citizens for GMO Labeling brought this message to the U.S. Senate: Consumers demand mandatory, on-package labeling of GMOS—and any compromise, including a voluntary labeling QR code scheme, is unacceptable. We delivered our message at a briefing on Capitol Hill, attended by legislative aides representing dozens of U.S. Senators. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Connecticut State Senate President Pro Tempore Don Williams, the lead sponsor of the first-in-the-nation GMO labeling law, and Tara Cook-Littman, also from Connecticut, who led the grassroots charge to pass Connecticut's law addressed the packed hearing. Blumenthal had this to say: "Part of my role as a Senator is to stop bad things from happening. The DARK Act is one of the worst things that could happen." Activists and/or lawmakers from Vermont, Massachusetts and New York also addressed Senate staffers. Did their arguments win new friends in the Senate? Let's hope so. orgcns.org/1lcAQN9

20 Years of Failure

A new Greenpeace report exposes the dismal failure of GMO crops to live up to their promises. The report also debunks every one of those promises. According to the report: 1: there are no GM crops designed to deliver high yields; 2: GM crops do not hold the key to climate resilience; 3: there is no scientific consensus that GM crops are safe for humans and the environment; 4: GM crops do not simplify crop protection—weeds and pests evolve to resist "crop protection" chemicals, creating worse problems; 5: GM crops are not economically viable for farmers; 6: GM crops cannot coexist with other agricultural systems without causing contamination of non-GM crops; 7: Genetic engineering is not the most promising pathway of innovation for food systems.

As we've known all along, Monsanto's seeds are engineered for the sole purpose of selling dangerous pesticides. "Over the past 20 years, GM technology has only been taken up by a handful of countries for a handful of crops, so no wonder two thirds of Europe have decided to ban it. Where GM crops are grown, they lead to increased pesticide use and the entrenchment of industrial farming systems that in turn exacerbate hunger, malnutrition and climate change." -Franziska Achterberg, *Greenpeace EU food policy director*.

orgcns.org/1l66A6M