Kathleen Hallal
Irvine, CA

May 3, 2015

Dear Kathleen,

I am pleased you are working to create a safe environment for children in schools, an environment that is free of poisonous pesticides.

I worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency for 25 years. Most of that time I spent in the Office of Pesticide Programs of EPA. I had plenty of time to observe the science and the workings of the industry and the government bureaucracy in the regulation of pesticides like roundup.

My experience taught me NOT to trust the government's regulation of pesticides. This is because the industry, working through Congress and the White House, exercises a corrupting influence on the EPA that regulates pesticides. The implication of this reality is that these chemicals should not be on the market. They are biocides designed to kill all forms of life, including human life.

Second, pesticides are more toxic than the can labels say they are. Why? Because the user / consumer sprays not a single pesticide or active ingredient but a mixture of pesticides, many of them known carcinogens and others untested chemicals.

Third, there is a lengthy tradition of fraud in the testing of pesticides.

I summarized my findings about pesticides and government regulation in my recent book, "Poison Spring: The Secret History of Pollution and the EPA" (Bloomsbury Press, 2014, paperback March 2015). I strongly recommend this book as it is the first book that documents how and why the industry captured the EPA, rending unreliable all government statements about the "safety" of pesticides. The book, however, empowers the reader with knowledge to ask questions and take steps for the protection of human health and the natural world.

In addition, there are several studies documenting the adverse ecological and adverse human health effects of pesticides, including glyphosate or roundup.

Rosemary Mason, a physician from the UK, wrote to EPA, January 22, 2015, saying this about glyphosate / roundup:

"[G]lyphosate poisons humans in the same way as it poisons plants. Pesticide scientists and plant scientists have based their assessment of herbicides on complete ignorance of human physiology. UK physicians have failed to question the accuracy of the assessors' knowledge.

"Humans and animals have exactly the same pathway as in plants; mammals can only absorb nutrition via the bacteria in their gut; the gut microbiome. **The gut microbiome is the collective genome of organisms inhabiting our body.** Glyphosate residues in food disrupt the pathway which involves 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase. Beneficial bacteria are destroyed, causing inflammatory changes in the gut lining, destroying its absorptive capacity in humans and animals, chelating (extracting or grabbing) minerals, depleting micronutrients and interfering with multiple metabolic processes resulting in obesity, type 2 diabetes, autism, dementia, cancers, inflammatory bowel diseases (Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's disease), celiac disease, hypercholesterolaemia and many other disorders associated with those on a Western diet.

"Glyphosate has been registered as a herbicide for 40 years under false premises." (Private communication.)

In other words, a legacy of fraud in the testing of pesticides and the overwhelming influence of the chemical and agribusiness industry over EPA and other global regulatory authorities, all but guarantees that pesticides are dangerous for both the natural world and human beings, especially children.

Fortunately, we have effective alternatives to the deleterious pesticides. Organic farmers raise food without pesticides. And concerned citizens refuse to use pesticides in schools, parks, lawns, and houses. Beyond Pesticides, an environmental organization in Washington, DC, has prepared a guide for alternatives to pesticides. This is easily accessible through the Internet.

With my best wishes,

Evaggelos Vallianatos, Ph.D.

Former EPA analyst; former professor; author of several books and hundreds of articles

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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