

Republicans in the House Plan to Ban All Pesticide Bans | Care2 Healthy Living

As someone who has spent a couple of decades trying to educate people about the health and environmental dangers of pesticides and the importance of banning them, you can imagine my surprise at discovering the current administration's plan to prevent pesticides from being banned. Yes, you read that right: the Republicans in the US House plan to ban pesticide bans.

Why would anyone try to stop the banning of toxic, and frequently cancer-causing, pesticides? The short answer is: money. According to [Farm Journal's AgPro](#), the pesticide industry is expected to be worth \$81 Billion by 2020, but pesticide bans stop the chemical giants from selling their products in areas where these bans are passed.

But, there's more to the story. In 2015, Montgomery County, Maryland, decided to pass a [ban on pesticides](#) within their borders. The pesticide industry sued the county and won. While the county was able to ban the use of pesticides on public land, the judge stopped them from banning them altogether in their region. The pesticide manufacturers did not stop there.

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Somehow, language was added to the [federal Farm Bill](#) that would prohibit local county or town governments from restricting the use of pesticides—a ban on pesticide bans. If this version of the federal Farm Bill passes by the US Senate this fall, all local governments across the United States will lose their right to ban pesticides in their communities.

While some people claim that only the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should be allowed to ban pesticides, the reality is that the EPA has been doing anything but protecting American citizens or fulfilling their mandate involving environmental protection (which should be so clear because it is right in their name). Instead, the EPA has been going in a different direction. Recently, the EPA was sued and lost. As a result, the government agency was forced to [ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos](#), but why does it take lawsuits for the agency to ban these toxic substances?

That remains unclear but the agency has a lengthy history of not looking out for the health of Americans and their environment. That's because the [EPA Classified Roundup as Carcinogen 30 Years Ago...but Mysteriously Reversed Decision](#). So, it's not a logical position for anyone to try to pass the Farm Bill as it stands, declaring that only the EPA should be able to ban pesticides. After all, the EPA has proven itself unconcerned about the rampant use of pesticides and their effects on human health and the environment.

The revised Farm Bill wording to ban pesticide bans follows on the heels of a landmark court case against Monsanto (now owned by the German company Bayer AG), in which the manufacturer of the glyphosate-based pesticide RoundUp, lost and was ordered to pay \$289 million to Dewayne Lee Johnson. Sadly, Johnson, who initiated the lawsuit did so after being diagnosed with terminal non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He has sustained lesions on over 80 percent of his body, even though he routinely wore protective clothing when he sprayed RoundUp. See my blog "[Monsanto Loses Landmark Cancer Lawsuit and \\$289 Million in Damages](#)" to learn more. Monsanto appealed the verdict and, just days ago, [lost again](#). While Johnson was victorious in his lawsuit, he has been given only

months to live.

The pesticide, glyphosate, has been linked in many scientific studies to non-Hodkin's lymphoma—cancer of the lymphatic system—the same kind of cancer Dewayne Lee Johnson is currently suffering from, as well as [genetic damage](#) to humans. Additionally, it [has also been linked to](#) Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, infertility, miscarriages, birth defects, chronic kidney and liver diseases, diabetes, heart disease, and hypothyroidism. The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) reviewed around 1000 studies before concluding that this pesticide is a probable carcinogen in 2015. Yet, the EPA continues to allow the rampant use of this toxic pesticide.

If this new bill passes we can expect to see skyrocketing rates of cancer, infertility, depression, Alzheimer's, birth defects and many other serious health conditions that have been linked to pesticide use because they will likely be sprayed in even higher amounts than in the amounts they are currently used.

Perhaps more than ever, people need to get out and vote against this abuse of power before the current administration passes legislation to prevent any future bans on toxic and dangerous pesticides. The future health of all Americans depends on it.

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