



'No Accident'

In her latest article, journalists Carey Gillam exposes a collaborative effort by Monsanto and the EPA to scuttle a critical safety review of Roundup. The safety review was supposed to be conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), a federal public health agency. ATSDR, along with the Centers for Disease Control, is charged with evaluating the potential adverse human health effects from exposures to hazardous substances in the environment. The ATSDR announced in February 2015, that it planned to publish a toxicological profile of glyphosate (the key active ingredient in Roundup) by October of that year. That review has never been published.

Gillam writes: "The documents reveal this was no accident, no bureaucratic delay, but rather was the result of a collaborative effort between Monsanto and a group of high-ranking EPA officials."

Another corporate cover-up. Another example of taxpayer-funded federal agencies serving Corporate America, not you, the public. orgcns.org/2vaXwHp

Yearning for Organic

Many of you received an email this week from Our Revolution. The email promised to enter you in a contest to receive a free pint of Ben & Jerry's "Bernie's Yearning" ice cream. (It was a fundraising email, but you could enter to win the ice cream even if you didn't donate). As you know, OCA is a big fan of Our Revolution—so much so, that we've urged you to join, or start a chapter of your own. And when it comes to Bernie, OCA supports a political revolution based on policies that align closely with those of Bernie's. So, for the most part, we're on the same page as Our Revolution and Bernie. Except when it comes to Ben & Jerry's. The marketing gurus at Ben & Jerry's know exactly what they're doing by aligning their brand with Our Revolution (it's called greenwashing), Ben & Jerry's hopes you won't notice that the company's policies aren't aligned with yours. By supporting industrial factory farm dairies, Ben & Jerry's is one of Vermont's largest polluters. Ben & Jerry's is one of the reasons that nearly 90,000 acres of Vermont farmland are planted in GMO crops—crops heavily sprayed with poisons like Monsanto's Roundup, atrazine, metolachlor and others—grown to feed dairy cows confined in barns for most of their lives.

If you got one of these emails or texts from Our Revolution, let them know that you support their work. But send them a note, or make a note in your donation form, stating that you don't support Ben & Jerry's. Tell Our Revolution that you also support the #ConsumerRevolution, which holds corporations accountable—so you'll pass on the free pint of ice cream. Unless it's organic! Please sign our petition asking Ben & Jerry's to go organic: orgcns.org/2jaLJTc

Post on Ben & Jerry's Facebook page: fb.com/benandjerrysUS

Call Ben & Jerry's: 802-846-1500.

Epidemic of Fraud

Collusion between Big Pharma and the federal government is to blame for the current opioid epidemic in the U.S., says a team of Harvard researchers. The authors of *The Opioid Epidemic: Fixing a Broken Pharmaceutical Market* cite estimates from the American Society of Addiction of Medicine that over 2.5 million Americans now have an opioid use disorder.

The study outlines how Big Pharma's fraudulent marketing practices combined with the federal government's enabling of patent schemes have fueled an epidemic that costs society \$80 billion/year. Not surprisingly, the perpetrators of this medical, social and economic disaster are never held accountable: "But no one ever goes to jail; no one in top management is ever held to account. The persons in "personhood" conveniently disappear when corporations get in trouble. And the fines? Mere pocket change compared to the revenues already made from the drugs involved." orgcns.org/2wo8nxv

Deadline Extended

Vermont's GMO labeling law, which took effect July 1, 2016, only to be preempted a few weeks later, set the standard for what real GMO labels look like. Under Vermont's law, foods that were "produced with genetic engineering" were labeled as such. The only



Label It!

exemptions were restaurant foods, alcohol and foods from animals fed genetically engineered feed. These exemptions were necessary to comply with pre-existing federal labeling laws. Congress and the USDA have the power to require even stricter labels than Vermont. But instead, Congress passed the DARK Act, a law clearly intended to severely limit the number of GMO foods that have to be labeled.

Instead of actual words on the package, the DARK Act lets food companies hide information about GMOs on websites. Under this scheme, consumers would have to download a so-called "Smart-Label" app to their smart phones, then—while they're shopping—scan QR barcodes which send them to the brand's website where they have to search for information on GMO ingredients.

The DARK Act directed the USDA to come up with a federal "bio-engineered food disclosure" scheme. The Trump Administration is beginning to write the regulations which will define that scheme, and is seeking public comments on those regulations until August 25.

Tell the USDA we need GMO labels—not QR codes or other technology schemes that make it difficult for many (and impossible for some) consumers to know whether they're buying GMO foods, or foods that contain GMO ingredients.

Take Action By August 25: orgcns.org/2tIaSsB

Not So 'Wonderful'

The Wonderful Company claims to sell "healthy" foods, under brand names like POM, Fiji Water, Wonderful Almonds, and others.

Grimmway Farms, which markets brands like Bunny Luv carrots, claims to "give you the best, most innovative carrot products on the market!"

What do these two companies have in common? They use toxic oil-drilling wastewater to grow their products. How can that be? Because California, where so much of our food is grown, allows water districts to buy contaminated oil wastewater and resell it to growers.

As reported by *EcoWatch*, in the last three years, farmers in parts of California's Central Valley irrigated nearly 100,000 acres of food crops with billions of gallons of oilfield wastewater. Much of this water is believed to contain toxic chemicals, including chemicals that can cause cancer and reproductive harm, according to an Environmental Working Group analysis of state data.

The Wonderful Company and Grimmway Farms need to back up their marketing claims of "healthy" and "best." They can start by refusing to use oil wastewater for irrigation purposes, and by leaning on California's Gov. Jerry Brown to ban the use of chemical-tainted wastewater on food crops.

Take Action: orgcns.org/2wNlLsp