



---

**Portfolio Media, Inc.** | 111 West 19th Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10011 | [www.law360.com](http://www.law360.com)  
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | [customerservice@law360.com](mailto:customerservice@law360.com)

---

# Farming, Food Groups Sue EPA Over Glyphosate Approval

By **Juan Carlos Rodriguez**

Law360 (March 20, 2020, 7:25 PM EDT) -- Farming and food groups on Friday filed a legal challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's finding that glyphosate, the primary ingredient in Monsanto Co.'s weedkiller Roundup, likely does not cause cancer.

Several juries have recently awarded plaintiffs **big-money verdicts** in lawsuits that have alleged Roundup caused cancer. But the EPA in February said glyphosate probably doesn't contribute to the disease. The Rural Coalition, Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas, Farmworker Association of Florida, Beyond Pesticides and Center for Food Safety on Friday filed a petition for review of the EPA's pesticide registration for glyphosate.

"EPA's half-completed, biased, and unlawful approval sacrifices the health of farmworkers and endangered species at the altar of Monsanto profits," George Kimbrell, legal director for the Center for Food Safety, said. "The reckoning for Roundup is coming."

In a registration review — which says the chemical continues to meet the standard for registration in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act — **the EPA said** glyphosate is the most-used herbicide in the U.S. and should continue to be used, albeit with some labeling and usage tweaks.

While the agency's 2017 human health risk assessment found the chemical probably doesn't cause cancer, an accompanying ecological assessment did identify some risks, particularly to pollinator species like butterflies and bees.

But the petitioners say the EPA is ignoring the human health and environmental impacts of glyphosate.

"EPA has ... failed to collect basic data on how much glyphosate is taken into human bodies via skin contact or inhalation of spray droplets," the group said in a joint statement. "These exposure routes are particularly significant for farmworkers and others who work around and/or use Roundup, the very people who are at greatest risk of cancer and other health harms."

The controversial chemical has led to several lawsuits, including multidistrict litigation in California's Northern District that accuses Bayer AG unit Monsanto of failing to warn consumers and regulators about the alleged risks of using its Roundup brand of weedkiller.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment included glyphosate on a list of chemicals known to the state as causing cancer based on the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer's conclusion that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans.

Bayer spokesperson Bob Chlopak said Friday praised the EPA's registration review process as "extremely robust."

"For more than 40 years, the EPA has concluded that glyphosate does not pose unreasonable risks to non-target species when glyphosate is used as directed," Chlopak said.

The EPA declined to comment Friday.

The petitioners are represented by Ryan D. Talbott, George A. Kimbrell, Amy van Saun and Sylvia Shih-Yau Wu of the Center for Food Safety.

Counsel information for the EPA was not available Friday.

The case is Rural Coalition et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency et al., case number unavailable, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

--Editing by Bruce Goldman.

*Update: This article has been updated to include comment from Bayer.*

---

All Content © 2003-2020, Portfolio Media, Inc.