

ATTN: Kathleen S. O'Neill
Chief, Transportation, Energy & Agriculture Section
Antitrust Division
United States Department of Justice
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Petition in opposition to proposed U.S. v. Bayer AG and Monsanto Company settlement and merger:

A merger of agrochemical giants Bayer and Monsanto would create the world's largest seed and pesticide maker. I am afraid this move will reduce competition, raise prices for consumers and farmers, and result in an unacceptable degree of control over the agricultural industry and our food supply. I am very concerned about pollinators and the increased risks to bees, butterflies and birds with the increase of Bayer's neonicotinoids.

Both companies produce corn products engineered to imply the use of harmful pesticides they manufacture. The production of corn uses high amounts of nitrogen-based fertilizers and the excess sediment is contaminating our waterways, therefore I am deeply worried about increased corn production from this merger. The heavy nutrient runoff from corn is widely attributed to exacerbating the marine "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico, in which algal blooms create hypoxic conditions wherein oxygen concentration is in such low levels that marine life suffocates and dies.

I urge the Department of Justice to do more prevent the Bayer-Monsanto seed and pesticide platform from growing too strong by stopping this merger. If this merger is allowed, it should require more pesticide and seed divestments in order to protect our agriculture and food supply. This merger is anti-competition, if it is approved it will fail to protect farmers, consumers and the environment by allowing further consolidation of the industrial agriculture sector. We must ensure our farmers have access to conventional seeds, and that the biodiversity of our seed supply is not damaged further.

Pesticide manufacturing giants should not be given more power to profit when pesticide impacts to human health include brain cancer, adverse birth outcomes, Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, low sperm count, Parkinson's Disease, asthma, poor mental development, autism, reduced IQ, ADHD, respiratory diseases, bladder, colon and rectal cancer, and leukemia.

With the risks so clear, I urge your agency to reject any attempt by these two corporations to merge and ensure the safety, biodiversity and economic security of our farming and food supply. Please protect our current and future generations from the harm Monsanto and Bayer products bring into the world.

Thank you for your consideration.