

Gaines, Lori

From: Kari Aist <mom4mykids@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:23 AM
To: ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: Roundup should not be used

Dear Clerk of the Board—

These are my comments for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

As an IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant), I have studied immune function in preparation for my advocacy for breastfeeding. It is of great concern that Roundup is in effect an antibiotic; this has profound implications in the landscape. We humans need to build and protect complex soil microbiology for the immune system functioning of plants in much larger vegetative landscapes and this is especially important if we're going to survive the climate catastrophe we're facing. There are so many vital benefits from regenerating and protecting healthy living soil: drawing down carbon; increased water infiltration to reduce harm from drought and flooding; and the basic functioning of the entire foodweb in an area. Roundup is a systemic pesticide in plants and is as broad spectrum as any known antibiotic. It acts to kill healthy soil.

In addition, bees depend on bacteria in their guts for their immune systems to function properly, bacteria which are poisoned by Roundup. Pollinators are harmed by visiting flowers in contaminated ecosystems and collecting honeydew from the plant sap after plants are sprayed. Widespread use of Roundup along with the neonicotinoids is considered the biggest explanation of colony collapse disorder. Without the functionality provided by a healthy microbiome, honeybees affected by Roundup lose immunity to disease. And without healthy populations of honeybees and other pollinators that are harmed by the compound, food production is greatly diminished.

Finally, let me remind you, in case you've forgotten, that human beings are also harmed by exposure to Roundup. Unbiased science is clear on this and is easily available for you to read. As a breastfeeding advocate, a parent, a regenerative, organic suburban gardener, and a human being who recognizes our moral imperative to practice good stewardship of our environment, it's almost too much to bear to think that you, our elected officials charged with protecting the best interests of your constituents rather than those of corporations, would even harbor a moment's consideration for continuing the use of this destructive compound which harms babes, bees, and our beautiful earth. Please say NO to Bayer and do your duty to protect your constituents.

Sincerely—

Kari Aist
8892 Tacoma Street
Ventura CA 93004
805-323-6063

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

805-323-6063

8892 Tacoma Street, Ventura 93004

"Believe with all your heart that how you live your life makes a difference" - Colin Beavan