

My name is Leila Baroody and I have resided in Northwest Connecticut for most of my life. I thank the Chair and Children's Committee for allowing me to testify in favor of RB 5300 so citizens can be rightfully informed of GMO ingredients.

As background, my undergraduate and grad school degrees were ecology related, one Master's from Cornell and also an MBA from UCONN. I have work experience in environmental and business related fields.

In 2000, I was not aware of GMO foods in my diet, or the damage they could cause to the intestinal lining of the gut. When I went to my doctor, I was told I had acquired food allergies even though I didn't have any as a kid. Fortunately, I found a doctor who helped address my situation. Unbeknownst to us, GMO foods had been silently slipped into the food supply and I was eating them.

I started collecting research about the GMO pesticide-dependent crop technology, of particular interest to an ecologist! After getting an MBA, I worked in investment management, primarily for banks. It was at that time I became aware of Monsanto's evolving business model, using patented herbicide tolerant traits. They would be able to market more chemicals employing protected bioengineered seeds with herbicide tolerant traits, and synthesized Bt pesticides built right into the plants, despite biocidal harms to the environment. I also remember company marketing PR promoting a beneficial "no till" agriculture, while indicating Roundup was biodegradable. I assumed our federal approval of the new crop system was legitimately science-backed, unaware that regulatory agencies had been ignoring scientists warnings and curbing their research.

With super weeds and superbugs proliferating, as well as pollinator, soils, and water supply contamination problems far and wide, it is now apparent that this herbicide dependent crop system was fatally flawed in design. And we still don't know much about the other so-called "inert" ingredients in the Roundup formulas.

Without GMO labels, it is a constant struggle to maintain health and keep bacteria in my gut in good balance to avert G/I and other symptoms, which Dr. David Perlmutter and others now describe in groundbreaking brain, gut and microbiome research. I wonder how many other people suffer from autoimmune and neurological disorders emanating from this GMO crop system.

I buy very little farmers' corn given the G/I disruption I've experienced from inadvertently eating GMO corn in the past. I'm unsure if it came from pesticides or the GMO process itself, since corn was the only thing I ate at lunch that day. Since we are kept in the dark about where Monsanto and other agribiotech companies have located GMO test plots, and which farmers' fields are presently GMO, labeling is essential for me. Today's faulty federal GMO approval system, lacks due diligence when it comes to more robust risk assessment as occurs in other countries like Australia, China, Japan. In effect, the health of our people and the planet appear to be lower priority than expediting corporate needs.

People and ecosystems routinely appear to be treated as collateral damage, in deference to crop approvals and exemptions by regulatory authorities.

This misrepresented, pernicious, and unlabeled GMO food system has been harming many of our more vulnerable kids and families' health, while polluting our soils and waters, even adversely impacting whole ecosystems with toxic chemical cocktails and a dangerous monoculture system. We know the technology has been inadequately risk assessed according to numerous government documents, retirees, and independent scientists, even FDA's own scientists.

In closing, I have gained increased appreciation and respect for the complexities in our human genome and gut microbiome in recent years. An impact on one area of the genome may well result in impacts elsewhere, and can produce unintended consequences. We shouldn't be feeding our kids toxins and GMO unknowns in nutrient-deficient food from glyphosate's mineral chelation and antibiotic properties. I understand that some next generation GMO technology can result in silent generation-skipping impacts, a diagnostician's nightmare without labeling. Time has been running out for many who have improperly diagnosed ailments from this Pandora's Box of food technology foisted upon them.

With many retired government and university scientists now able to speak freely without career consequences, it is clear that the US government has succumbed to empowering and promoting a flawed and dangerous biotech agrichemical system, replete with inadequate government risk assessments for many citizens' health and for our state's economy. Food and water remediation is very expensive and difficult. Clean water and wholesome food is precious!

We need legitimate GMO labeling now to protect our kids and all citizens so we have a chance to avoid exposure. Only then can we rightfully trace and treat related impairments to our health. Connecticut's environment and citizen health care costs will likely improve with mandatory on-product GMO labeling.

Thank you,
Leila Baroody
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References:

Dr. Thierry Vrain, formerly with Canadian Government Agriculture Biotechnology and Soils Scientist PhD <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiU3Ndi6itk>
Clearly presented science regarding Glyphosate chelation and GMO impacts
David Perlmutter, MD, Neurologist and Author of "Brainmaker"
<http://www.drperlmutter.com> including microbiome research linking gut and brain.
Altered Genes, Twisted Truth How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived

the Public. Steven M. Druker, 2015.

GMO Myths and Truths: co-authored by genetic engineers Dr. John Fagan and Dr. Michael Antoniou <http://earthopensource.org/about-earth-open-source/>
Dispels agrichemical biotechnology company and related special interest myths with legitimate evidence- based information

Ramon Seidler, PhD and retired Sr. Scientist from EPA; *impacts of genetically modified organisms on soils and the environment. Prior to EPA, Dr. Seidler was a Professor of microbiology at Oregon State University for 16 years. Dr. Seidler was elected as Fellow in the American Academy for Microbiology. He was listed by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England as one of the 2,000 Outstanding World Scientists of the 20th Century.* Interview: <http://www.non-gmoreport.com/articles/june-2015/former-epa-scientist-biotech-companies-encouraging-pesticide-treadmill.php>

<http://mbio.asm.org/content/6/2/e00009-15> According to the abstract of a scientific paper by Heineman et al in American Society for Microbiology, “Biocides such as herbicides are routinely tested for toxicity, but not for sub lethal effects on microbes”, thereby raising antibiotic resistance issues.

<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/glyphosatePoisonsCrops.php>
Institute of Science in Society - Dr. Mae Wan Ho et al
Scientists Reveal Glyphosate Poisons Crops and Soil , GM Meltdown Continues
<http://www.i-sis.org.uk/glyphosatePoisonsCrops.php>
Scientists go public on devastating ecological impacts of Roundup Ready cropping systems while USDA keeps mum [Dr. Mae-Wan Ho](#)

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Dr. Robert Kremer , Microbiologist, USDA Agricultural Research (Retired) and University of Missouri Professor of Plant Sciences
<http://foodintegritynow.org/2015/04/15/dr-robert-kremer-gmos-glyphosate-and-soil-biology/>

Pesticide Action Network NA –challenging the global proliferation of pesticides and defending basic rights to health and environmental quality <http://www.panna.org>

Green Med Info - Sayer Ji, Founder <http://www.greenmedinfo.com/blog/scientific-consensus-statement-reveals-roundup-herbicide-major-health-threat>
Well-documented reference source of Peer Reviewed Independent Science

<https://gmoupdates.wordpress.com/dr-mercola-interviews-dr-huber-on-gmo/>
Other retired government scientist interviews and pertinent information not readily accessible in one place