



Executive Order - Glyphosate-Based Herbicides

Comments from Kelly Ryerson

President Trump issued an Executive Order today to promote the domestic production of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides, claiming they are critical to both national defense and agriculture.

It is a dark irony that the order is framed as national defense, when it protects a chemical regime that is eroding the foundations of national strength, including healthy bodies, living soil, and secure food sources. Expanding phosphorus mining is an upstream subsidy for a failing glyphosate-dependent farming system that is driving chronic disease and soil degradation.

This move betrays the very MAHA voters who put this administration in power. It stands in direct opposition to the President's original promise to address the contribution of pesticides to chronic disease.

The EO reveals a widening disconnect between MAHA voters and the Trump administration regarding pesticide use and chemical regulation. Similarly, in Congress, at a moment when Republicans should be working to keep the support of MAHA voters for the midterms, they are instead pursuing immunity shields for chemical manufacturers. For many MAHA voters, pesticides were the key issue in their voting decision, including my own.

American agriculture is heavily dependent on glyphosate, largely because of the dominance of Roundup Ready GMO crops. If leaders insist on perpetuating this current chemical farming system, continued reliance on glyphosate sourced from China could pose a genuine national security risk.

However, expanding domestic phosphorus mining is not a durable solution. At best, this step is a temporary fix that must be paired with an urgent national effort to heal our soils and get farmers off of the expensive, destructive chemical treadmill by supporting a transition to regenerative practices.

Across the country, farmers are proving that regenerative and biological systems can grow abundant, profitable crops with significantly less chemical input. When ecosystems are allowed to function, the need for synthetic pesticides and fertilizers drops substantially. Profitable alternatives to the current chemical-dominant system already exist, but are largely ignored in Washington.

MAHA voters did not ask for more glyphosate. We asked for a transition to a non-toxic food system that doesn't sacrifice our health for corporate profit.