

June X, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write today to highlight a letter 79 bicameral Republican colleagues sent to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kennedy, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Rollins, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Zeldin on April 11, 2025. We appreciate the Administration's response and commitment to uphold sound science and risk-based analysis in regulatory processes.

Our initial letter focused principally on the Make American Healthy Again Commission's (the Commission) since published *Make our Children Healthy Again Assessment* (the Assessment). We applaud your efforts to address chronic illness in children and support efforts to address this issue with sound science and risk-based analysis. However, we remain concerned your efforts are being undermined by anti-agriculture interest groups who want to use this as an opportunity to attack crop protection tools and plant-based oils.

Anti-agriculture interest groups seem to have influenced the Assessment. The Assessment employed reports and rhetoric mischaracterizing proven-safe chemistries and ingredients. The Assessment questions the safety of critical crop protection tools. However, the Assessment's cited evidence found the opposite conclusion. The cited study found chemistries, like glyphosate, are safe.¹ Other sources cited were editorial in nature. One cited study was determined to be "junk science" with "deep methodological problems" by a judge ruling on glyphosate litigation.² Another citation critical of "ultra-processed fats" is sourced from a narrative review rather than scientific literature.³ Several other citations in the initially published report simply do not exist.⁴

Sound science and risk-based analysis are paramount if the nation is going to properly address chronic illness in children. The assessment and strategy are highly consequential. Anti-agricultural groups understand that this is their best chance to influence executive policy for their gain regardless of the cost to children, consumers, producers, or the environment. By August 12, MAHA Commission members will need to publish the corresponding *Make our Children Healthy Again Strategy* (the Strategy) to be compliant with your executive order establishing the

¹ Hall, M. et al. (2025). Associations of prenatal glyphosate exposure with child neurodevelopment in a Canadian pregnancy cohort study. *Environment International*, 109480.

² Zhang, L., Rana, I., Shaffer, R. M., Taioli, E., & Sheppard, L. (2019). Exposure to glyphosate-based herbicides and risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma: a meta-analysis and supporting evidence. *Mutation Research/Reviews in Mutation Research*, 781, 186-206.

³ Simopoulos, A. P. (2008). The importance of the omega-6/omega-3 fatty acid ratio in cardiovascular disease and other chronic diseases. *Experimental Biology and Medicine*, 233(6), 674-688.

⁴ ABC News, RFK Jr.'s MAHA report cited nonexistent studies, May 29, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/rfk-jrs-maha-report-contained-existent-studies/story?id=122321059>

Commission. As this important work is undertaken, we reiterate our initial ask: ensure policy decisions are grounded in sound science and risk-based analysis.

Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Michael Kratsios made this case perfectly in his remarks to the National Academy of Science. He said “biased interpretation of science leads to bad decision making and undermines the public’s trust.” Further, he said “we cannot afford for America’s scientists to be in the business of scoring points for an ideological agenda” and “a close-minded political fashion preoccupied with symbolic victories ... distorts [outcomes.]”⁵

It is of paramount importance to the American farmer and consumer that the Strategy is thoughtfully drafted. The next generation of children rely on sound science and risk-based analysis to support the best possible health outcomes. The American food system is a marvel of the modern world due to our safe, effective use of pesticides and the wholesome ingredients our commodities produce. We look forward to working with you to Make American Healthy Again through science- and risk-based Strategy implementation.

Sincerely,

cc: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins
Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin

⁵ The White House, Remarks by Director Kratsios at the National Academy of Sciences, May 19, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2025/05/remarks-by-director-kratsios-at-the-national-academy-of-sciences/>