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May 17, 2018

The Honorable Scott Gottlieb  
Commissioner of Food and Drugs  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Building 32, Room 2346  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Doctor Gottlieb,

Thank you for your service. I am writing to inquire about the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) review of glyphosate residues in food.

As you know, since 2016 the FDA has been testing particular food items, including corn, milk, eggs, and soybeans, for glyphosate residues. The EPA is completing a registration review of glyphosate to determine whether or not the pesticide presents human health and ecological risks. This interim review is not expected to be released until next year. The EPA Inspector General (IG) is also conducting an inquiry into the agency's review of glyphosate after reports of misconduct by EPA officials.

I am concerned by recent public reporting revealing that scientists at the FDA have communicated that they found glyphosate traces in commonplace food items. Specifically, on April 30, 2018, an article published in *The Guardian* referenced documents from an FDA scientist who had found glyphosate on his "wheat crackers, granola cereal and corn meal."<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the article stated that a different agency scientist had found glyphosate residues on corn that exceeded the EPA's accepted limits. However, the report indicates that neither of these samples will be included in your agency's official review of glyphosate in food items.

The differences between levels of glyphosates referenced in *The Guardian* article and the FDA's preliminary test results coupled with the EPA IG's inquiry into its own agency's review of glyphosate indicate to me that the public deserves additional information on the safety of glyphosate in food. As such, I respectfully request answers to the following questions.

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<sup>1</sup> Gillam, Carey. "Weedkiller Found in Granola and Crackers, Internal FDA Emails Show." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 30 Apr. 2018, [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/apr/30/fda-weedkiller-glyphosate-in-food-internal-emails](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/apr/30/fda-weedkiller-glyphosate-in-food-internal-emails).

- How did the FDA determine which food items to include in its glyphosate testing?
- How would any potential changes to the EPA's regulations for glyphosate affect the FDA's testing?
- Do you collaborate with the National Institutes of Health on matters related to glyphosate?
- Does the International Agency for Research on Cancer's finding that glyphosate may be carcinogenic affect your testing of the pesticide?
- Will you release, or provide to Congress, the preliminary results of the FDA's glyphosate testing?
- When will the final results for the FDA's glyphosate testing be completed and made public?
- Do you disagree with any element of *The Guardian* article referenced in this letter? If so, please explain.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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**Ted W. Lieu**  
Member of Congress