

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Kenneth Keller Jr., CEO  
B&G Foods  
4 Gatehall Dr  
Ste 110  
Parsippany, NJ 07054-4522

Dear Mr. Keller,

I'm reaching out from Green America, a national nonprofit organization representing over 250,000 consumers and 2,000 businesses. We would like to meet with B&G Foods to discuss adoption of regenerative agriculture practices and how your company can reduce the use of pesticides in its supply chain.

Based on publicly available information, it appears that B&G does not have a pesticide reduction strategy or any public disclosures regarding pesticide policies or practices. I also could find no information regarding the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices by your company.

I'm writing to encourage you to implement regenerative agricultural practices throughout B&G's supply chains, including implementing a pesticide reduction and management plan. As a major food manufacturer, adopting regenerative agriculture is crucial for mitigating climate change, restoring ecosystems, and building resiliency for farmers.

Specifically, Green America would like to discuss with you the development of a plan to transition your entire agricultural supply chain to regenerative practices. This involves techniques like no-till farming, cover-cropping, and crop rotation to improve soil health, capture carbon, retain moisture and nutrients in the soil, and reduce erosion. With healthy soil as the foundation, regenerative agriculture reduces reliance on pesticides and harmful synthetic fertilizers. It's a holistic and natural approach that enhances biodiversity, water retention, and crop yields.

In addition to regenerative agriculture, we ask that B&G implement policies to reduce pesticide/herbicide usage, starting with pesticides of high concern, and ensure that agricultural workers are protected from pesticide exposure.

B&G could adopt a rigorous integrated pest management (IPM) program to reduce and phase out all highly hazardous pesticide use. IPM utilizes natural predators and parasites, biological controls, and improved sanitation to control pests. This approach minimizes environmental impact and reduces pesticide residues in food and water. This includes making information about current pesticide use and tracking publicly available for full transparency.

Lastly, I urge you to implement health and safety policies that exceed EPA regulations to protect farmworkers and communities from pesticide-related illnesses. Mandatory protective equipment, proper education on the pesticides in use and their risks (in native languages as appropriate), enforced re-entry intervals, pesticide application buffers from homes and schools, and regular biomonitoring of farmworkers' blood can better safeguard workers and families from avoidable harm.

Transitioning to regenerative agriculture and reducing harmful pesticide use is critical for the future of food production. As a leader in the food industry, the actions B&G Foods take can catalyze much-needed change. We hope you will consider implementing these requests for the health of consumers, workers, and the planet we all share.

Green America's Food and Agricultural teams are available for a call to discuss this issue further and to offer our recommendations on how the company can become a leader on implementing regenerative agriculture and pesticide reduction throughout its entire supply chain.

I would appreciate a response by October 23 to set up a time to talk.

Sincerely,

Emma Kriss  
Food Campaigns Manager  
Green America

*Green America is a Washington D.C. based organization that has over 250,000 members across the United States. We have been promoting corporate responsibility and keeping families and workers safe for over 40 years through our advocacy and campaign work. We believe that consumers are the pressure point for economic change and we have successfully mobilized hundreds of thousands of consumers to address issues of social justice and environmental sustainability.*