Martin Luther King Jr. once famously said “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” Once could perhaps say the same about truth in the battle for scientific knowledge.

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Of course, the harm done by Round-Up is not limited to humans. According to the National Pesticide Information Center, the toxic half life of glyphosate in the environment can be up to 197 days. Field runoff tainted with Round-Up has shown to have a lethal impact on freshwater invertebrates, amphibians, and fish. Studies in Argentina have even shown birth defects in chickens exposed to glyphosate. Back in 2011, Purdue University plant pathologist, Don Huber, sent a private letter to USDA Sec. Tom Vilsack, later leaked to the public warning that Round-Up use was leading to new pathogens that could be responsible for miscarriages in live stock among other dangerous consequences. (https://www.organicconsumers.org/sites/default/files/Art- man2/uploads/1/May2011_Huber.dj)

Other scientists have noted increased fungal disease as well as nutrient deficiencies in fields with GMO crops resistant to glyphosate and 2,4-D. (resistant to glyphosate and dicamba), and Monsanto’s Xtendimix varieties and Monsanto’s Round-Up resistant weeds, but only for a while, and at what cost to the health of farm workers, consumers and the environment? As these cases wend their way through the courts, some states are taking action on their own - both Missouri and Arkansas banned the use of dicamba in July 2017 after hundreds of soybean farmers reported crop losses of 30-50% from toxic drift.

And in other good news, on Aug. 29th Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) introduced a bill to limit mergers — such as that between Bayer and Monsanto (https://www.bookercanvote.com/posts/press_release&id=844). Rep. Mark Pocan (WI) — a longtime friend of Family Farm Defenders - will be introducing a companion bill in the House. The bill would put an 18-month moratorium on large agribusi- ness, food and beverage manufactur- ing, and grocery retail consolidation, and study the impact of such mergers. In the past two years, mega mergers and corporate takeovers have enabled just three conglomerates to control 66% of the crop seed and 70% of the agrochemical market.

Meanwhile, net farm income for US farmers has fallen by more than half in just the last five years. Over 80 family farm, con- sumer, and environmental groups have expressed their support for the legislation. This bill is modeled on a similar measure introduced back in 1999 by Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-MN), another great champion of family farmers before his untimely death in a plane crash in 2002. While the full toll from decades of Monsanto’s carefree toxic peddling has yet to be deter- mined, we may finally see the last nails being hammered into the coffin for Round-Up.