



Earlier this year, Bayer advocated for legislation in Idaho that would provide immunity for failure to warn claims for products approved under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). If enacted into law, this bill would have provided complete immunity for products using glyphosate, which includes Bayer/Monsanto's Roundup.

The deck was immediately stacked against the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA). Bayer/Monsanto operates a phosphate mining and processing plant in Soda Springs, Idaho. In fact, the senator for that district was the sponsor of the bill. It was clear from watching the proceedings and introduction of the bill that Bayer had written it for the senator and handed it to him.

At a later hearing, the same senator turned to a Bayer lobbyist and invited him to the podium to field questions from committee members.

AAJ's State Affairs department worked with ITLA to build a plan to oppose the legislation. ITLA and AAJ members and advocates in Idaho worked to inform legislators about the impact of this legislation on farmworkers, those exposed to dangerous products, and crops.

ITLA has done an incredible job going up against a major multinational corporation. AAJ is proud to partner with them in their efforts. AAJ State Affairs Senior Counsel for Policy and State Affairs Daniel Hinkle testified at an Idaho senate hearing, and our Communications department educated the media on the impact of this bill. Their combined work paid off.

We saw legislators express concerns that immunity would harm their constituents and communities. There were multiple times where we thought the bill was dead only for it to come back to life under pressure from Bayer.

On April 3, the Idaho senate held its last hearing of the session and recessed until next week when they will come back for final votes and adjourn sine die. The Bayer immunity bill will likely not become law in Idaho this year. Bayer is also pushing this legislation in Iowa and Missouri.

We hope the strategic partnering with ITLA will lead to successful battles in other states to protect access to justice.