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1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 1450
Oakland, CA 94612

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BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD SINCE 1992

Jeffrey L. Harmening
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
General Mills, Inc.
Number One General Mills Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55426-1347

As long-term investors representing XXX in assets under management, we write today to express serious concern regarding General Mills' failure to address the growing risk related to the use of pre-harvest glyphosate on oats and other crops used in its products. Public concern about the health impacts of glyphosate exposure has risen dramatically in recent months as public interest organizations have released [test results](#) finding glyphosate residues in products marketed as healthy, [including Cheerios](#). Recent lawsuits against Bayer (previously Monsanto), the leading manufacturer of glyphosate-based herbicides, have only fanned the flames of concern as juries award plaintiffs [multi-million dollar liability awards](#) finding that glyphosate was the cause of the plaintiffs' cancer. As the legal action against Bayer increases, so too does the threat of class action lawsuits against food manufacturers (including General Mills, already [implicated in a related class action lawsuit](#)). To mitigate this threat, investors request that the company immediately issue a plan to work with its suppliers to end the pre-harvest application of glyphosate on crops for Cheerios and other grain-based products. General Mills' reputation relies on consumer trust, especially concerning popular household brands like Cheerios.

A Growing list of public interest groups and food companies have [petitioned the EPA](#) to ban pre-harvest application of glyphosate on oats. Pre-harvest use of glyphosate serves to dry crops more quickly and evenly, but leads to [increased glyphosate residues](#) on consumer products. Recently, a U.S. House Representative [introduced a bill](#) that would require a federal ban of pre-harvest glyphosate use as well as a drastic reduction in the allowable amount of residual glyphosate on oat products.

General Mills has defended its inaction to date by arguing that the level of residual glyphosate in its products is allowable under the existing government regulations. However, scientists, public interest groups, and politicians have called the current limits into question as insufficient to safeguard the health of consumers. As consumers increasingly demand healthy, non-toxic food products, shareholders believe it is in the best interest of the company to keep ahead of regulatory change and source its product ingredients transparently and sustainably.

The combination of the current legal, reputational, and regulatory risks facing the company presents an urgent need for General Mills to take action to assure investors and consumers that its products are safe to eat and free from toxic chemicals.

We would welcome further conversation with the company to discuss this request. Please contact Christy Spees at cspees@asyousow.org to set up a meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christy Spees
Environmental Health Program Manager
As You Sow