

National Memo

To: Interested Parties
From: Public Policy Polling
Re: 90 Percent of Voters Nationwide Concerned About Potential Merger of Monsanto and Bayer; Overwhelming Majority Say Merger Will Result in Harm to Consumers, Farmers

A new Public Policy Polling survey of 1,506 registered voters nationwide, conducted June 1-4, 2017, finds that nine-in-ten American voters are concerned about the potential merger of agrochemical conglomerates Monsanto and Bayer, and a similar number of voters want elected officials to do more to combat the growth of concentrated corporate power. 90% of voters nationwide say they have either “very serious concerns” or “somewhat serious concerns” about the Monsanto-Bayer merger, including 91% of Democrats, 90% of Republicans, and 90% of Independents. A similar 90% of Americans are concerned about concentrated corporate power as a whole, with 69% saying they are “very concerned.” 92% of Americans, including an identical 92% of voters who supported Donald Trump for President in 2016, say it is important for the Trump administration to take a more aggressive stance toward halting concentrated corporate power and monopolies.

Voters are also in agreement that mergers, which have spiked to historic levels in recent years, are damaging to consumers, and only exist to benefit corporations’ bottom lines. Greater than three-in-four voters say that big corporate mergers result in fewer jobs, higher prices, less consumer choice, and worse customer service, and 88% of Americans agree that concentrated corporate power and monopolies are affecting them personally in their pocketbook or in terms of the quality of goods that they purchase.

When it comes to job loss, the Monsanto-Bayer merger is particularly dangerous, as Monsanto was busy laying off employees even before the merger announcement. In 2015 and early 2016, Monsanto laid off around 3,600 workers, which the company justified as part of a cost cutting initiative. The merger with Bayer was then announced publicly just months later in May.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- **The vast majority of Americans suspect that the merger of two of the world’s largest producers of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, will increase chemical contamination of the food they and their families eat every day.**

- 85% of Americans are concerned that the Monsanto-Bayer merger will result in increased chemical contamination of the food they eat, and 69% say they are “very concerned.”
 - This includes 79% of voters who supported Donald Trump for President in 2016.
- When it comes to how the Monsanto-Bayer merger will impact their quality of life, voters say chemical contamination of food and farmland are their most serious concerns out of a possible nine choices.
- **Nine-in-ten voters understand that the Monsanto-Bayer merger would pose a serious threat to the viability of independent farmers across the country.**
 - 90% of Americans are concerned the Monsanto-Bayer merger will harm independent farmers and farming communities, and 71% say they are “very concerned.”
 - This includes 89% of voters who supported Donald Trump for President in 2016.
- **Greater than four-in-five voters are concerned that the Monsanto-Bayer merger will result in layoffs and fewer jobs overall.**
 - 82% of voters nationwide say they are concerned that the proposed merger of Monsanto and Bayer will result in a loss of jobs, including 53% who say they are “very concerned.”
 - This includes 80% of voters who supported Republican Donald Trump for President in the 2016 election and 86% of voters who supported Democrat Hillary Clinton.
- **When it comes to corporate consolidation in general, over 80% of American voters believe that mergers result in fewer choices for consumers and reduce the power of consumers in the economy.**

- 81% of Americans are concerned greater concentration of corporate power will result in less consumer choice.
 - This includes 88% of voters who supported Donald Trump for President in 2016.
 - When it comes to potential consequences for consumers as a result of the Monsanto-Bayer merger, more expensive food products was the top concern for Trump voters.
- **Americans say the federal government is more interested in helping corporations improve returns for their shareholders than looking out for what's best for the average consumer.**
 - 72% of voters agree that Washington goes too easy on companies when they want it merge, and that it doesn't care about the impact of the mergers on consumers.
 - This includes two-thirds (67%) of Trump voters.
- **Voters plan on taking their reservations about corporate consolidation and monopolization to the voting booth in 2018.**
 - 83% of voters say that a candidate's willingness to fight growing concentrated corporate power and control over prices and products will be a factor be when deciding whom to vote for.
 - 51% call it a major factor in deciding whom they will vote for in 2018.
 - 80% of Trump voters share this interest in supporting candidates who are willing to fight growing concentrated corporate power.

PPP surveyed a demographically representative sample of 1,506 registered voters nationwide from June 1-4, 2017. The margin of error is +/- 2.5%. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.