

GMO labeling opponents spent over \$27 million in six months

Opponents of mandatory labeling for foods made with genetically modified organisms spent more than \$27 million in the first six months of this year on GMO-related lobbying, roughly three times their spending in all of 2013, according to an analysis released Wednesday.

The Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) and major food makers such as Coca-Cola Co and PepsiCo Inc and top biotech seed makers Monsanto Co and DuPont were among heavy spenders on GMO labeling-related lobbying, according to a report issued by the Environmental Working Group. The group analyzed lobbying disclosure forms that cited labeling of foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) along with other policy issues.

Coca-Cola spent \$4.8 million through the second quarter of this year; PepsiCo spent \$2.34 million; DuPont spent \$2.4 million, while Monsanto spent \$1.08 million, according to the report. All told, the opponents of GMO labeling disclosed \$15.2 million in lobbying expenditures for the second quarter of 2014, bringing the six-month total for 2014 to \$27.5 million. That compared with \$9.3 million disclosed on lobbying the issue by food and biotechnology companies in 2013, according to EWG, a Washington-based nonprofit that supports GMO labeling.

Read the full, original article: U.S. GMO labeling foes triple spending in first half of this year over 2013