

advocacy groups have influenced legislation, liability frameworks, and public understanding in different eras.

The document analyzes:

- The historical role of IG Farben during Nazi Germany
- The post war dissolution of IG Farben and the emergence of successor companies including Bayer
- The formation and legislative advocacy efforts of the Modern Ag Alliance
- State level pesticide liability limitation bills
- Ag gag laws and agricultural transparency restrictions
- Anti BDS laws and compelled speech debates
- Patterns of corporate lobbying and legislative sponsorship

The purpose of this paper is educational. We compare historical atrocities with modern legislation and we document how legal structures can shape public discourse, corporate accountability, and citizen access to information.

Part I

IG Farben and Corporate Alignment with State Power

IG Farben was a German chemical conglomerate formed in 1925 from several major firms. During the Nazi era, it became deeply integrated with the regime's war economy.

Key documented facts:

- IG Farben manufactured synthetic rubber and fuel critical to German military operations
- Subsidiaries were involved in producing Zyklon B, the gas used in extermination camps
- The company built and operated facilities near Auschwitz that relied on forced labor
- Executives were later tried at the IG Farben Trial during the Nuremberg proceedings

After World War II, IG Farben was dismantled. Its major components were reorganized into companies including Bayer, BASF, and Hoechst. The historical record demonstrates how corporations can operate within and benefit from state policy frameworks when legal structures align with state power.

Part II

Bayer and Contemporary Legal Battles

Bayer acquired Monsanto in 2018. This acquisition included glyphosate based products such as Roundup.

Following the acquisition:

- Thousands of lawsuits alleged failure to warn regarding cancer risk
- Major jury verdicts were issued against Bayer
- The company has spent billions in settlements

In response, legislative efforts in multiple states have sought to clarify or limit liability based on federal label compliance standards.

These bills are sometimes referred to as:

- Pesticide label preemption bills
- Failure to warn immunity bills
- Liability limitation acts

Supporters argue these bills protect farmers and align state law with federal EPA labeling authority. Critics argue they reduce corporate accountability and limit injured individuals' legal remedies.

Part III

The Modern Ag Alliance

The Modern Ag Alliance was formed to advocate for agricultural legal protections and policy reform related to pesticide labeling and liability standards.

The Alliance:

- Supports state legislation aligning liability standards with EPA labels
- Engages in coordinated state level lobbying
- Works with farm and commodity organizations
- Issues policy briefs and public communications

Bayer has publicly supported efforts aligned with these initiatives, though the Alliance describes itself as a coalition of agricultural stakeholders.

Part IV

Ag Gag Laws and Transparency Restrictions

Ag gag laws are state statutes that restrict undercover investigations of agricultural facilities. These laws:

- Criminalize certain forms of recording without consent
- Limit whistleblower protections in some contexts
- Have faced constitutional challenges in federal courts

Supporters argue these laws protect property rights and biosecurity. Critics argue they limit transparency and investigative journalism.

Part V

Anti-BDS Laws and Expression Policy

Anti BDS laws require certain government contractors to certify that they do not boycott Israel as a condition of public contracting.

These laws have been challenged on First Amendment grounds in multiple federal courts.

Supporters argue they prevent discriminatory economic boycotts. Critics argue they compel speech or restrict political expression.

Part VI

Ag Gag Laws — State Sponsors

Arizona HB 2587 (2014): Brenda Barton (R), Kate Brophy McGee (R), Juan Carlos Escamilla (D), David M. Gowan Sr. (R), Darin Mitchell (R), Steve Montenegro (R), Lisa Otondo (D), T.J. Shope (R), Bob Thorpe (R), Karen Fann (R), Adam Kwasman (R), Chester Crandell (R), Barbara McGuire (D), Lynne Pancrazi (D), Steve Pierce (R)

Arkansas SB 13 / SB 14 (2013): Sen. Gary Stubblefield (R), Rep. Sue Wallis (R), Sen. Ogden Driskill (R)

Missouri HB 1860 / Related (2012+): Rep. Casey Guernsey (R)

Iowa HF 589 / SF 431 (2011–12): Rep. Annette Sweeney (R), Sen. Tom Rielly (D)

Indiana Various Ag-Gag Attempts (2012–14): Sen. Travis Holdman (R), Sen. Ron Grooms (R)

Vermont S 162 (2013): Sen. Robert Starr (D), Sen. Norm McAllister (R), Sen. John Rodgers (D), Sen. Richard Westman (R)

New Mexico SB 552 (2013): Sen. Cliff R. Pirtle (R)

Pennsylvania HB 683 (2013): Rep. Gary Haluska (D)

Tennessee HB 1191 / SB 1248 (2013): Rep. Andy Holt (R), Sen. Dolores R. Gresham (R)

California AB 343 (2013, Withdrawn): Assemblymember Jim Patterson (R)

New York S 5172 (2011): Sen. Patty Ritchie (R)

Minnesota (2011–12): Rep. Rod Hamilton (R), Rep. Dean Urdahl (R), Rep. Paul Anderson (R), Rep. Tony Cornish (R), Rep. Greg Davids (R), Rep. Bob Dettmer (R),

Sen. Doug Magnus (R), Sen. Rod Skoe (D), Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R), Sen. Dan Sparks (D)

Part VII

Pesticide Liability Limitation Bills — State Sponsors

Iowa SF 394 (2025): Senate Judiciary Committee

North Dakota HB 1318 (2025): Rep. Mike Beltz (R), Rep. Jared Hagert (R), Rep. Craig Headland (R), Rep. Lawrence R. “Larry” Klemm (R), Rep. Ben Koppelman (R), Rep. Mike Lefor (R), Rep. Robin L. Weisz (R); Cosponsors: Sen. David Hogue (R), Sen. Greg Kessel (R), Sen. Paul J. Thomas (R), Sen. Mark F. Weber (R)

Missouri HB 544 (2025): Rep. Dane Diehl (R)

Florida HB 129 (2025): Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee, Rep. J.J. Grow (R), Rep. Danny Nix (R)

Florida HB 443 / SB 518 (2026): Rep. J.J. Grow (R), Sen. ... Truenow (R)

Other States (Sponsor info not fully published): Georgia SB 144 (2025), Idaho HB 303 (2025), Mississippi HB 1221 / SB 2472 (2025), Montana HB 522 (2025), Oklahoma HB 1755 (2025), Tennessee HB 809 / SB 527 (2025), Wyoming HB 285 (2025)

Part VIII

Anti-BDS / Expression Restriction Laws — Sponsors

Law for Prevention of Damage to the State of Israel Through Boycott (2011): Ze’ev Elkin, Dalia Itzik, members of Likud, Shas, Yisrael Beiteinu, United Torah Judaism, National Union

Amendment No. 28 to Entry Into Israel Law (2017): Bezalel Smotrich, Roy Folkman

Proposed “The Hague Law” (2024): Coalition MKs backing the bill (proponents reported, names not formally listed)

Nakba Law (2011): Alex Miller, revised with input from David Rotem

Nazi Germany Legal Suppression Laws — Sponsors / Authorities

Reichstag Fire Decree (1933): President Paul von Hindenburg, proposed by Adolf Hitler and Nazi Party leadership

Enabling Act (1933): Adolf Hitler (Chancellor), German Cabinet, Nazi-controlled Reichstag

Press Control: Joseph Goebbels (Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda)

Political Party Bans & Arrests: Nazi Party leadership, SS authorities

Zyklon B & IG Farben Operations: IG Farben executives and SS administration at Auschwitz and Monowitz

Closing Reflection

Across history and issue areas, the interaction between corporate power, legislative drafting, legal liability standards, and public transparency has shaped the boundaries of accountability. Historical and contemporary examples illustrate how legal structures influence corporate conduct, citizen oversight, and public access to information. This educational document provides a multi-faceted view for policymakers, scholars, and the public.

Please note this document is not exhaustive.

All bills may be searched here: <https://www.congress.gov/>

