

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Austerman, Reinbold, Tuck, Kerttula

Introduced: 1/28/13

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources

A RESOLUTION

Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's preliminary finding relating to genetically engineered salmon; urging further examination of genetically engineered salmon; opposing AquaBounty's petition to produce genetically engineered salmon; and proposing, if AquaBounty's petition is approved, that its product should be labeled as "genetically modified."

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Food and Drug Administration recently announced the release of a draft environmental assessment and preliminary finding of no significant impact concerning genetically engineered AquaBounty AquAdvantage salmon; and

WHEREAS the state has bountiful fisheries that provide wild, natural, and sustainable seafood; and

WHEREAS Alaska seafood is naturally high in essential vitamins, including vitamins E, C, D, and A, and minerals, including zinc, iron, calcium, and selenium; and

WHEREAS fish habitat in the state is less polluted than fish habitat in other locations; and

1 **WHEREAS** fisheries are a vital component of the state's economy; and

2 **WHEREAS** the state's fisheries are managed to ensure that Alaska seafood continues
3 to be the finest in the world for future generations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2009, 95 percent of pacific salmon landings in the United States
5 occurred in the state; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2012, 124,000,000 salmon were harvested in the state, for a value of
7 \$505,000,000; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska ports consistently rank among the top ports in the United States
9 based on volume and ex-vessel value for various fisheries including salmon; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state's fishing industry provides over 70,000 jobs annually and is the
11 second largest source of private sector employment in the state; and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration is accepting comments
13 on the proposal to allow, for the first time, a genetically modified organism to be sold for
14 human consumption; and

15 **WHEREAS** the inevitable accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild could
16 devastate native fish populations and ecosystems; and

17 **WHEREAS** citizens and public interest groups overwhelmingly oppose genetically
18 engineered food and have submitted over 400,000 public comments opposing genetically
19 engineered salmon; and

20 **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration has not conducted
21 adequate testing to determine the long-term safety of consuming genetically engineered
22 salmon; and

23 **WHEREAS** the sale of genetically engineered salmon could imperil the state's fishing
24 industry; and

25 **WHEREAS** seven members of the United States Senate continue to have concerns
26 about AquaBounty's proposal and the United States Food and Drug Administration's review
27 of the proposal; and

28 **WHEREAS** the United States Food and Drug Administration's review applies only to
29 a limited set of production and rearing facilities and fails to consider the broader applications
30 of this technology that would assuredly occur should final approval be granted;

31 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Food

1 and Drug Administration not to make a final decision regarding genetically engineered
2 salmon until the United States Congress has fully examined the issue and the potential release
3 of genetically engineered fish into the waters of the United States; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes AquaBounty's
5 petition to produce AquAdvantage Salmon, a genetically engineered salmon; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the petition is approved by the United States Food
7 and Drug Administration, despite strong environmental and human health concerns, product
8 labeling requirements should include the words "Genetically Modified" prominently
9 displayed on the front of the product's packaging.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
11 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
12 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
13 Agriculture; the Honorable Margaret Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and
14 the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
15 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.