February 1, 2013
Representative Paul Seaton, Chairman
House Special Committee on Fisheries
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
RE: HJR 5 Oppose FDA Approval of GE Salmon

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Steve Merritt and I am a commercial fisherman living in Craig, Alaska. I strongly support HJR 5, which seeks, among other things, to persuade the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to deny the approval and marketing of genetically engineered salmon in the United States.

The FDA has been allowed to conduct its analyses of GE salmon under a cloak of secrecy, in order to protect the patent rights of the companies involved. Of significant concern is that fact that this review is being conducted under the rules governing animal drugs – not food for human consumption. If this bogus analyses is allowed to prevail the implications for the future approval of basic cyanide as a food source, seems possible, as long as it passes the animal drug rules. The irrationality of approving a product heading for human consumption using rules that govern animal drugs can be called one thing. Stupid!!

Only one public hearing was held, by the FDA's veterinary committee, and participation was limited to a handful of people. Note that FDA only requested comments on labeling – not the question of whether or not GE salmon should be approved for human consumption. Ironically, FDA has no authority to label anything, leading to the question, Why even opened that comment period? This irrational dodging of the main issue is suggestive of only one thing. Corruption.!! It appears the FDA has been bought by Aquabounty so to sneak this GE salmon approval through no matter what the cost to consumer's safety. Is there nothing left in the back bone of the FDA's bureaucracy that is of any moral, ethical fiber? Any scientific rational thinking left? Has the US government fallen so far in the direction of squalidness, that it ignores this agency's blatant misconduct?

I ask you to uses your legislative powers and support HJR 5 in hopes to bring the FDA back in line and make that agency a respectable representative of the US government..
FDA has failed to adequately evaluate the impact of this designer fish on either humans or the environment. The agency must evaluate this product as a human food source – not a drug – and the data and FDA's analyses should undergo rigorous peer review. A full Environmental Impact Statement and consultation under the Endangered Species Act, on both the East and West Coasts. In addition, FDA, or another appropriate agency, should be given direction and authority to ensure that all life stages and final product forms of this creature are prominently labeled so an educated choice can be made by US consumers. A concept that founded this country!!

Sincerely, Steve Merritt

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