

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28(FSH)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 2/5/16

Referred: Labor and Commerce

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Ortiz, Kreiss-Tomkins

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty**
2 **AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; urging the United States Congress to**
3 **enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered products with**
4 **the words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging; and supporting the**
5 **efforts of the state's congressional delegation to delay the confirmation of the new**
6 **commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration until the United**
7 **States Food and Drug Administration agrees to require labeling for genetically**
8 **engineered salmon.**

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

10 **WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2015, the United States Food and Drug Administration
11 approved AquaBounty AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon as safe for human
12 consumption; and

13 **WHEREAS** the approval is the first time in history that the United States Food and
14 Drug Administration has approved a genetically engineered animal for human consumption;

1 and

2 **WHEREAS** a large majority of state residents oppose the approval of genetically
3 engineered salmon by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

4 **WHEREAS** more than 2,000,000 Americans opposed the United States Food and
5 Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon in the largest number of
6 comments the United States Food and Drug Administration has ever received on an action;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS** more than 65 retailers, including Costco, Safeway, and Target, have
9 announced that they have no plans to sell genetically modified salmon; and

10 **WHEREAS** more than 40 members of the United States Congress have expressed
11 opposition to the approval of AquaBounty AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and

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

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

16 **WHEREAS** a May 2013 McGill University research report detailed findings
17 demonstrating interbreeding between genetically modified salmon and brown trout could
18 occur, suggesting that the potential for similar hybridization between other closely related
19 species could pose risks for wild populations, including wild salmon; and

20 **WHEREAS** the research demonstrated that transgenic hybrid salmon can outcompete
21 with both wild salmon and genetically modified salmon, making hybridization relevant to risk
22 assessments; and

23 **WHEREAS**, each year, thousands of salmon escape from open water net pens into the
24 Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, demonstrating that escapement is a serious threat to wild fish
25 populations; and

26 **WHEREAS** the AquaBounty facility on Prince Edward Island is producing
27 genetically engineered fish eggs and sits adjacent to a water body that is directly connected to
28 the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic Ocean; and

29 **WHEREAS** the proximity of the AquaBounty facility to the Saint Lawrence Seaway
30 and the Atlantic Ocean puts wild Atlantic salmon, which are listed under the Endangered
31 Species Act, at risk; and

1 **WHEREAS** the long-term human health effects of consuming genetically engineered
2 salmon are unknown;

3 **WHEREAS** the state's congressional delegation has delayed the confirmation of the
4 new commissioner of the United States Food and Drug Administration until the United States
5 Food and Drug Administration agrees to require labeling for genetically engineered salmon;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the United States Food
7 and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquaAdvantage genetically engineered
8 salmon; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
10 Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered
11 products, including AquaBounty AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon, with the
12 words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging, as required by state law; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the efforts
14 of the state's congressional delegation to delay the confirmation of the new commissioner of
15 the United States Food and Drug Administration until the United States Food and Drug
16 Administration agrees to require labeling for genetically engineered salmon.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
18 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
19 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
20 Agriculture; Stephen Ostroff, M.D., Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and the
21 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
22 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.