



April 11, 2016

Representative Geran Tarr  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Geran Tarr:

Alaska Glacier Seafoods, Inc., a family owned seafood company, employs approximately 150 individuals seasonally in Juneau, Alaska. We have been operating since 1996 and rely on the strong health of wild salmon. Wild salmon populations promote the economy and Alaska's fishermen and rural communities. As a result, we oppose the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered (GE) salmon.

As a member of the seafood industry, our company has a vested interest in the health and sustainability of wild salmon populations. In Alaska, the fishing industry is the largest source of private sector employment and is valued at more than \$3.25 billion annually. Consequently, GE salmon pose a heightened threat to Alaskan fishermen and the coastal communities that thrive off of the commercial fishing industry. Furthermore, Alaska's rural populations rely heavily on salmon for subsistence and impacts to the industry would have devastating impacts.

GE salmon run the risk of escaping into the wild and, with their touted faster growth rates, could outcompete and pose harm to wild salmon populations. Furthermore, GE salmon may have heightened susceptibility to diseases, specifically *Aeromonas salmonicida* which causes hemorrhaging and degrades the quality of meat.

It is important the US FDA hear our concerns and adequately assess the threat that GE salmon pose to Alaska residents and voice their support for House Joint Resolution 28 opposing genetically engineered salmon.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Erickson, Sr.  
President  
Alaska Glacier Seafoods, Inc.