

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARR

Introduced: 2/22/17

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty**
2 **AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and 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.**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2015, the United States Food and Drug Administration
7 approved AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon as safe for human
8 consumption; and

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

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

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

1 and

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

4 **WHEREAS** more than 40 members of the United States Congress have expressed
5 opposition to the approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the United States Food
29 and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered
30 salmon; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States

1 Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered
2 products, including AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon, with the
3 words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging, as required by state law.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of
5 the United States; the Honorable Mike Pence, Vice-President of the United States and
6 President of the U.S. Senate; the United States Secretary of Agriculture; the United States
7 Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable
8 Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
9 the Alaska delegation in Congress.