

UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA



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March 13, 2017

Representative Andy Josephson, Co-Chair
Representative Geran Tarr, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Support for HB 32 to require labeling for genetically modified foods

Dear Co-Chairs Josephson and Tarr, and Committee Members,

UFA is on record with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in opposition to approval of genetically modified salmon for production and consumption in the U.S., and we have strongly requested that FDA regulations require that any genetically modified salmon or other seafood products be clearly labeled as such.

Alaska leads the world in sustainable fishery management practices and we have gone to great effort and expense to differentiate our seafood products in the marketplace. U.S. consumers should be provided with clear labeling so they can make an informed choice in their seafood purchases. We are very concerned that if genetically modified *seafood is not* labeled clearly, Alaska fishermen and coastal communities will suffer job losses and economic hardship due to consumer confusion about the wholesomeness of salmon in general.

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 34 Alaska Commercial fishing organizations, and hundreds of individual fishermen and related businesses. We support HB 32 and applaud the State Legislature for your dedication to Alaska's fisheries and our position in the global marketplace.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCune
President

Mark Vinsel
Executive Administrator

CC: Representative Geran Tarr