

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 65(L&C)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/2/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that Alaska wild salmon be included as an organic food under federal
2 law.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS the ocean waters off the coast of Alaska are among the most pristine
5 waters on the globe; and

6 WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon thrive in these waters, returning to Alaska shores at
7 the end of their life cycle; and

8 WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon are recognized by dieticians and other nutritionists
9 to be a source of healthful food; and

10 WHEREAS, in an attempt to confuse the consumer, farmed salmon have been
11 marketed as wild salmon; and

12 WHEREAS efforts to resolve this intentional identification confusion by the massively
13 subsidized foreign salmon farm industry has proved to be a difficult task; and

14 WHEREAS a key difference between Alaska wild salmon and farmed salmon is the
15 use of various drugs and chemicals by the salmon farmers; and

16 WHEREAS Alaska wild salmon legitimately deserve a label that indicates the organic

1 and superior qualities of this food; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of
3 Agriculture, is seeking comments on a proposal to establish a national organic production
4 program under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 - 6522); and

5 **WHEREAS** the organic food industry is a \$3,500,000,000 industry growing at the rate
6 of 20 percent each year; and

7 **WHEREAS** having Alaska wild salmon recognized under the national organic
8 production program will allow the Alaska commercial salmon industry to develop this new
9 market; and

10 **WHEREAS** any effort by the United States Department of Agriculture to avoid
11 defining Alaska wild salmon as organic because there is no control over the oceans would be
12 tantamount to penalizing organic vegetable farmers because they do not have control over the
13 rain; and

14 **WHEREAS** there are molecular tests that can readily indicate the organic qualities and
15 lack of chemicals of Alaska wild salmon;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the
17 Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to give careful
18 consideration to including Alaska wild salmon on its list of organic foods; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the National Organic
20 Standards Board, if there is not a currently clearly defined section or category for wild salmon,
21 to include a section for wild salmon as an organic food under federal law; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the members of
23 Alaska's delegation to the United States Congress to pursue expeditiously the inclusion of
24 Alaska wild salmon as an organic food under federal law.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Daniel R. Glickman,
26 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
27 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
28 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.