



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 9 Fairbanks

Sponsor Statement for HJR 8

"Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to Deny an Application to Sell Genetically Engineered Salmon in the United States"

House Joint Resolution 8 (HJR8) is introduced to urge the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to deny any application to sell genetically engineered salmon in the United States. HJR8 also calls on Congress to enact product labeling requirements that include the words "Genetically Modified" which are prominently displayed on the package if the application is approved by the FDA.

Recently, the FDA held hearings to approve a hybrid Atlantic salmon as the first genetically engineered animal for human consumption. The FDA's consideration for approval of this "frankenfish" is a risky precedent and a threat to Alaska's wild salmon. The hybrid Atlantic salmon has been engineered by crossing Chinook salmon growth genes and an antifreeze gene from an eel, the ocean pout. The genes allow the new creation dubbed the AquAdvantage salmon to grow about twice as fast as its natural cousin.

Salmon farms in Canada, Europe and South America have been criticized for crowded conditions, fecal contamination, use of chemicals, proliferation of disease and escapees. Atlantic salmon have been caught in Alaska's waters, escaping from neighboring fish farms in British Columbia; many infested with sea lice. They are considered an invasive species by Alaskans.

HJR8 will send the clear message to the Federal Government, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, the Food and Drug Administration and President Obama that the Alaska State Legislature does not condone the growth, sale or release of genetically engineered salmon in the United States. Please join me in supporting House Joint Resolution 8 and help make Alaska's salmon safe.