

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 208
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Alaska's Congressional delegation supports passage of House Joint Resolution 8 (HJR8) 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 to include the words "Genetically Modified" prominently displayed on the package if the application is approved by the FDA.

HJR8 would support comparable legislation now pending before the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and send a clear signal of disapproval of "frankenfish" by the Alaska State Legislature.

The FDA's consideration of a hybrid Atlantic salmon as the first genetically engineered animal for human consumption is a risky precedent and a threat to Alaska's wild salmon. The genes allow the creation to grow about twice as fast as its natural cousin and raise serious questions about the potential impacts of this engineered species on human health, wild salmon and its habitat, and the economy of coastal fishing communities.

The FDA process to review this proposal has taken place mostly behind closed doors, without meaningful consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and leaves much to be desired.

Alaska was correct in banning finfish farming in state waters over 20 years ago and instead focusing its attention on the sustainable management of wild salmon stocks. Last summer's harvest of 169 million salmon worth \$534 million to fishermen demonstrates the productivity and economic value of Alaska's wild salmon.

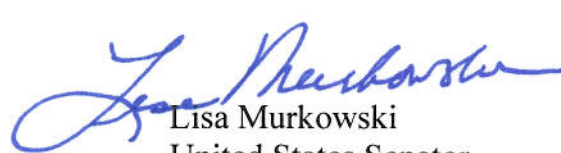
Salmon farms in Canada, Europe and South America have been criticized for crowded conditions, contamination, use of chemicals, proliferation of disease and escapees. Atlantic salmon have been caught in Alaska's waters after escaping from neighboring fish farms in British Columbia with many infested with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

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HJR8 will send a clear message to 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.

We applaud the leadership of Representatives Scott Kawasaki, Bob Miller, Peggy Wilson, Beth Kerttula, and Steve Thompson in this matter and urge full passage of HJR8 by the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Lisa Murkowski, written in a cursive style.

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

A blue ink signature of Mark Begich, written in a cursive style.

Mark Begich
United States Senator

A black ink signature of Don Young, written in a cursive style.

Don Young
Congressman

Cc: Alaska State House of Representatives