



Chris Wood

Chief Executive Officer

January 6, 2011

Representative Scott Kawasaki
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Kawasaki:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited's 140,000 members nationwide, I would like to thank you for formally opposing AquaBounty's proposal to produce and distribute genetically modified salmon in the U.S. We commend you on your leadership and for ensuring that Alaska's wild fish and fisheries are protected from potentially irreversible threats.

As you know, AquaBounty Technology's proposal to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is concerning for multiple reasons. Trout Unlimited is particularly concerned about the Food and Drug Administration not properly investigating the potential environmental consequences to wild stocks when genetically modified fish escape into the wild. That is why we support your move to ban the production of genetically engineered fish in Alaska's waters as a way to ensure that Alaska's salmon fisheries are not compromised by this experimental technology. It is encouraging to see Alaska's lawmakers continue to make wild fish a priority and to protect this sustainable and renewable resource from harmful industries and actions.

Trout Unlimited has been working for several years with salmon retailers, restaurants and commercial fishermen to promote the sustainable harvest of wild salmon from places such as Alaska's Bristol Bay (see www.whywild.org). Our focus is on maintaining productive habitat that supports abundant salmon runs, sustainable fisheries, and healthy communities. Our work has helped build public awareness so that salmon consumers around the country can make informed choices that support our nation's sustainable salmon fisheries. Having genetically engineered salmon on grocery store shelves and restaurant menus without proper labeling would create confusion among salmon consumers, making it more difficult for them to make an educated decision. Lack of labeling could also discourage consumers who are opposed to genetically modified fish from buying salmon at all, thus impacting Alaska's salmon fishing industry and communities. Your proposed bill to require labeling of any genetically modified and farmed fish sold in Alaska will enable Alaskan consumers to continue making informed decisions when they purchase salmon and the ability to vote with their dollars for wild Alaska salmon.

Alaska has long been the leader when it comes to sustainable fishery management, and so we are pleased to see Alaska continue to protect the ecological and economic health of its wild fisheries. We thank you again for your work on this important issue and we look forward to working with you, the Alaska Legislature, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to ensure that Alaska's wild salmon and sustainable fisheries are not compromised by the commercial production of genetically engineered fish. Please feel free to contact me or Elizabeth Dubovsky in our Juneau office if you have any questions about our work (edubovsky@tu.org / 907.586.2588).

Sincerely,

Chris Wood

Cc: Senator Mark Begich
Senator Lisa Murkowski
Congressman Don Young