

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES KAWASAKI, Miller, Peggy Wilson, Kerttula, Thompson, Gara, Seaton, Austerman, Herron**

**Introduced: 1/18/11**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to deny an application to sell**  
2 **genetically engineered salmon in the United States; urging compliance with the**  
3 **provision of P.L. 110-85 (Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007) that**  
4 **requires the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to consult with the National Marine**  
5 **Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regarding a**  
6 **report on environmental risks associated with genetically engineered seafood products;**  
7 **and urging that product labeling requirements include the words "Genetically**  
8 **Modified" prominently displayed on the front of the package if the application is**  
9 **approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.**

10 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

11 **WHEREAS** an application has been submitted to the United States Food and Drug  
12 Administration to market genetically engineered salmon for human consumption in the United  
13 States; and

1           **WHEREAS** this is the first genetically engineered animal intended to be used as food  
2 in the United States; and

3           **WHEREAS** a biological opinion issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
5 Administration to the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2003 expresses concerns that  
6 transgenic salmon would threaten and adversely affect wild Atlantic salmon, currently on the  
7 Endangered Species List; and

8           **WHEREAS** federal agencies are required by 16 U.S.C. 1536(a) (sec. 7 of the  
9 Endangered Species Act) to consult with fisheries agencies when an action may affect a  
10 protected species; and

11           **WHEREAS** the applicant proposes fertilization and incubation on Prince Edward  
12 Island, Canada, and shipment of the eyed-eggs to Panama for grow-out and processing, all  
13 processes that would occur outside the jurisdiction of the United States; and

14           **WHEREAS** the applicant proposes shipment of processed fish to the United States for  
15 retail sale; and

16           **WHEREAS** the proposed activities pose a threat to wild salmon in the Pacific  
17 Northwest and Alaska; and

18           **WHEREAS** genetically engineered fish has not been the subject of thorough scientific  
19 research and testing to ensure that its consumption by humans is safe in the long term; and

20           **WHEREAS** many consumers of wild salmon purchase the product for its widely  
21 recognized health benefits, and lack of testing could weaken consumer confidence in all  
22 salmon products; and

23           **WHEREAS** the state's wild seafood industry, which is extremely important to the  
24 state and local economies, could be severely affected by the sale of genetically engineered  
25 salmon;

26           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Food  
27 and Drug Administration to deny an application to sell genetically engineered salmon in the  
28 United States; and be it

29           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges compliance with the  
30 provision of P.L. 110-85 (Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007) that  
31 requires the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to "consult with the Assistant Administrator of

1 the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
2 Administration to produce a report on any environmental risks associated with genetically  
3 engineered seafood products, including the impact on wild fish stocks"; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, if the application is approved by the United States  
5 Food and Drug Administration despite strong environmental and human health concerns,  
6 product labeling requirements should include the words "Genetically Modified" prominently  
7 displayed on the front of the package.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
9 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
10 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House  
11 of Representatives; the Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, United States Secretary of the  
12 Treasury; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; Margaret A.  
13 Hamburg, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs, United States Food and Drug  
14 Administration; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.  
15 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
16 delegation in Congress.