

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8(FSH)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Offered: 2/14/11
Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KAWASAKI, Miller, Peggy Wilson, Kerttula, Thompson, Gara, Seaton, Austerman, Herron

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to deny any 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 any 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, Speaker of the U.S. House of
11 Representatives; the Honorable Timothy F. Geithner, United States Secretary of the Treasury;
12 the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; Margaret A. Hamburg,
13 M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs, United States Food and Drug Administration; and
14 the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
15 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.