

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Ortiz, Kreiss-Tomkins, Josephson, Millett, Drummond, Lynn, Guttenberg, Tuck, Gara

Introduced: 1/19/16

Referred: House Special Committee on Fisheries, Labor and Commerce

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty**
2 **AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; urging the United States Congress to**
3 **enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered products with**
4 **the words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging; and encouraging the**
5 **restoration of wild, native populations of salmon in areas where development has**
6 **negatively affected salmon.**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2015, the United States Food and Drug Administration
9 approved AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon as safe for human
10 consumption; and

11 **WHEREAS** the approval is the first time in history that the United States Food and
12 Drug Administration has approved a genetically engineered animal for human consumption;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS** a large majority of state residents oppose the approval of genetically

1 engineered salmon by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

2 **WHEREAS** more than 2,000,000 Americans opposed the United States Food and
3 Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon in the largest number of
4 comments the United States Food and Drug Administration has ever received on an action;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** more than 65 retailers, including Costco, Safeway, and Target, have
7 announced that they have no plans to sell genetically modified salmon; and

8 **WHEREAS** more than 40 members of the United States Congress have expressed
9 opposition to the approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; and

10 **WHEREAS** the state has bountiful fisheries that provide wild, natural, and sustainable
11 seafood; and

12 **WHEREAS** the inevitable accidental release of transgenic fish into the wild could
13 devastate native fish populations and ecosystems; and

14 **WHEREAS** a May 2013 McGill University research report detailed findings
15 demonstrating that genetically modified salmon could breed with other fish, including wild
16 salmon; and

17 **WHEREAS** the research proved that interbreeding is possible and showed that hybrid
18 fish could outcompete with both wild salmon and genetically modified salmon; and

19 **WHEREAS**, each year, an estimated 2,000,000 salmon escape from open water net
20 pens into the North Atlantic Ocean, demonstrating the risk that escapement is a serious threat,
21 especially from the AquaBounty facility on Prince Edward Island, an island that sits adjacent
22 to a water body that is directly connected to the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic
23 Ocean; and

24 **WHEREAS** the long-term human health effects of consuming genetically engineered
25 salmon are unknown;

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the United States Food
27 and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered
28 salmon; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
30 Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered
31 products, including AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon, with the

1 words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging, as required by state law; and be it
2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the restoration
3 of wild, native populations of salmon in areas where development has negatively affected
4 salmon, instead of the approval of a dangerous genetically modified salmon, so that the native
5 populations of salmon can thrive once again.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
7 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
8 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
9 Agriculture; Stephen Ostroff, M.D., Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and the
10 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
11 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.