

29th Legislature (2015-2016)
Bill Text 29th Legislature

00 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28
01 Opposing the United States Food and Drug Administration's approval of AquaBounty
02 AquaAdvantage genetically engineered salmon; urging the United States Congress to
03 enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered
products with
04 the words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging; and encouraging the
05 restoration of wild, native populations of salmon in areas where development has
06 negatively affected salmon.
07 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
08 WHEREAS, on November 19, 2015, the United States Food and Drug Administration
09 approved AquaBounty AquaAdvantage 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
01 engineered salmon by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and
02 WHEREAS more than 2,000,000 Americans opposed the United States Food and
03 Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon in the largest
number of
04 comments the United States Food and Drug Administration has ever received on an
action;
05 and
06 WHEREAS more than 65 retailers, including Costco, Safeway, and Target, have
07 announced that they have no plans to sell genetically modified salmon; and
08 WHEREAS more than 40 members of the United States Congress have expressed
09 opposition to the approval of AquaBounty AquaAdvantage 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 AquaAdvantage 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
01 words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging, as required by state law;
and be it

02 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the restoration
03 of wild, native populations of salmon in areas where development has negatively
affected

04 salmon, instead of the approval of a dangerous genetically modified salmon, so that
the native

05 populations of salmon can thrive once again.

06 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama,
President of

07 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United
States and

08 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
09 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.