

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/17/16

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TARR, Kawasaki, Ortiz, Kreiss-Tomkins, Josephson, Millett, Drummond, Lynn, Guttenberg, Tuck, Gara

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 urging the United**
5 **States Congress and the United States Food and Drug Administration to classify the**
6 **state as Tier IV for purposes of administering and funding consideration under the Food**
7 **Safety Modernization Act.**

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

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

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

1 **WHEREAS** a large majority of state residents oppose the approval of genetically
2 engineered salmon by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

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

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

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

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

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

15 **WHEREAS** a May 2013 McGill University research report detailed findings
16 demonstrating interbreeding between genetically modified salmon and brown trout could
17 occur, suggesting that the potential for similar hybridization between other closely related
18 species could pose risks for wild populations, including wild salmon; and

19 **WHEREAS** the research demonstrated that transgenic hybrid salmon can outcompete
20 with both wild salmon and genetically modified salmon, making hybridization relevant to risk
21 assessments; and

22 **WHEREAS**, each year, thousands of salmon escape from open water net pens into the
23 Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, demonstrating that escapement is a serious threat to wild fish
24 populations; and

25 **WHEREAS** the AquaBounty facility on Prince Edward Island is producing
26 genetically engineered fish eggs and sits adjacent to a water body that is directly connected to
27 the Saint Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic Ocean; and

28 **WHEREAS** the proximity of the AquaBounty facility to the Saint Lawrence Seaway
29 and the Atlantic Ocean puts wild Atlantic salmon, which are listed under the Endangered
30 Species Act, at risk; and

31 **WHEREAS** the long-term human health effects of consuming genetically engineered

1 salmon are unknown; and

2 **WHEREAS** the state's transportation and logistical challenges, including a lack of
3 road connectivity, result in geographic and funding obstacles to complying with the Food
4 Safety Modernization Act; and

5 **WHEREAS** the state is currently classified as Tier V, the lowest classification for
6 purposes of appropriation under and administration of the Food Safety Modernization Act;

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

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
11 Congress to enact legislation that requires prominently labeling genetically engineered
12 products, including AquaBounty AquAdvantage genetically engineered salmon, with the
13 words "Genetically Modified" on the product's packaging, as required by state law; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
15 Congress and the United States Food and Drug Administration to classify the state as Tier IV
16 for purposes of administering and funding consideration under the Food Safety Modernization
17 Act.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
19 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
20 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of
21 Agriculture; Robert M. Califf, M.D., Commissioner of Food and Drugs; and the Honorable
22 Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
23 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.