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February 19, 2013

Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Council, District 5
200 North Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

SENT VIA EMAIL (andy.shrader@lacity.org)

RE: City of Los Angeles Proposed Resolution 13-0002-S22 Regarding Genetically Engineered Salmon

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

Please accept these comments on behalf of Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LA Waterkeeper), formerly Santa Monica Baykeeper. LA Waterkeeper fully supports your proposed resolution opposing the FDA's approval of AquaBounty's genetically engineered (GE) salmon, the first genetically modified organism to be intended for human consumption.

AquaBounty's GE salmon has failed to meet the most basic requirements of peer-reviewed scientific standards. Unfortunately, the U.S. FDA has refused to require rigorous independent scientific testing to adequately protect the economic and cultural integrity of West Coast fishing communities, wild salmon stocks and the health of consumers.

Farmed salmon pose serious risks to our marine environment and wild populations of salmon. Each year millions of farmed salmon escape, out-competing wild populations for resources and straining ecosystems. In addition to the threats posed by farmed salmon operations, escaped GE salmon can also introduce disease to the marine environment, further stress wild populations and pose the threat of genetic pollution.

The National Academy of Sciences notes that a release of just sixty GE salmon into a wild population of 60,000 would lead to the extinction of the wild population in less than 40 fish generations. Any approval of GE salmon would represent a serious threat to the survival of native salmon populations, many of which have already suffered severe declines related to aquaculture and other man-made impacts. At the same time, government scientists have questioned the biosafety protocols provided by AquaBounty and serious questions remain about the safety of GE animals regarding their impact on human health and the environment.

For all of these reasons, LA Waterkeeper supports the proposed resolution. Thank you for your leadership in this matter.

Sincerely,

Liz Crosson
Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Cc: Los Angeles City Councilmembers; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

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Southern California Watershed Alliance

CF# 13-0002 - S22

Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz

Los Angeles City Council, District 5

200 North Spring Street, Room 440

February 19, 2013

RE: Support for Resolution opposing GE Salmon

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

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Southern California Watershed Alliance commends you for your resolution opposing genetically engineered salmon. While fighting for restoration of southern California streams to return steelhead trout it is hard to imagine my grandfather once caught salmon on rivers, including the Santa Clara, in southern California. If we are to have a chance of returning salmon to anywhere near their recent numbers to the north it will not be in competition with genetically engineered fish.

The science behind this GE salmon, which creates a "Frankenfish", mixing east and west coast salmon and an unrelated fish, the pout, is unproven and quite frankly frightening. As a fisherman, a consumer of fish, and someone who has worked for years to provide practical solutions to water issues I support your efforts to stop this madness and maintain a wild salmon fishery that is what people and restaurants are turning to in Los Angeles for safe, responsible and sustainable food choices.

Thank you,

Conner Everts

Executive Director, Southern California Watershed Alliance

CC: Council, Mayor

120 Broadway #105 Santa Monica, CA 90401 310.394.6162

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CC: City Council & Mayor:

On Sun, Feb 17, 2013 at 7:55 PM, Ashley Koff
RD <ashleykoffapproved@gmail.com> wrote:

CF #13-0002-S22

"Hi I am Ashley Koff, a registered dietitian practicing in Los Angeles, a member of the national media (I appear monthly on The Dr Oz show - that's actually why I am not here today in-person) & I am known as the dietitian that the country's leading doctors turn to for nutrition guidance for their patients (Drs like Dr Andrew Weil, Dr Oz, Dr Soram Khalsa etc). I am also a member of LA's NRDC leadership council.

While today's discussion is about a resolution to label genetically engineered salmon. To be clear, I believe with the approval of GE salmon we have already lost a huge health - ours and the environment's health - battle. I am wholly opposed to genetically engineering salmon. Why? #1 We don't need it. #2 it brings health risks that can't and certainly haven't been quantified to date.

Why a label? because IF we allow GE salmon, we must give people *the right to choose not to eat it*. Why? The long term risk for human consumption have NOT been evaluated. While proteins and fats of salmon are what make salmon among the healthiest of food choices, what happens when we speed grow salmon and grow them to 4-15 times their natural size? At least one thing is certain, those proteins and fats change. How? To what impact on the body? That remains unknown - just like the cause of cancer, the reason(s) millions are developing auto-immune disease today (disease where the body attacks itself), and the epic increase in infertility as well as diseases of cognitive decline. It's embarrassing that the FDA proceeds without adequate science, yet it will be negligent for us to not intervene to secure at least a label for those who choose to protect themselves from unknown food-chemistry lab experiments.

Logic - especially among those of us who make it their career to understand how nutrients are used in the body - follows that when we genetically alter critical molecules (amino acids & fatty acids) - which are the building blocks of our muscles, our organs, our hormones, and even our brain chemistry - we play roulette with our health.

I will not eat GE salmon ever and will advise all to avoid it. So, if my country chooses to allow the FDA to bring GE salmon to the market without a label, you leave me and other nutrition and health leaders no choice but to advise patients and consumers (all of you) to no longer consume ANY salmon. Having spent much time in Bristol Bay Alaska with Alaskan natives who make their living on the sale of salmon, I know this will impact jobs, the ecosystem, and remove a quality food source from millions. But the risk of GE Salmon to our health is to great to do anything other than avoid all salmon...unless we require labeling. I can't be apart of creating a generation of guinea pigs for GE Salmon; please pass this critical resolution to ensure labeling for GE salmon and support our local and national fisheries not an untested chemistry lab project."

Ashley Koff RD

Qualitarian, Author, Consultant

check out the AshleyKoffApproved (AKA) lists for better *Quality* choices

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for media inquiries please contact:

Bryana at bryana.curtis@mouthpublicrelations.com

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To the City Council of Los Angeles:

I write in strong support of the pending Council resolution opposing the FDA's approval of GMOsalmon. Introducing such salmon into the food supply, in my judgment, threatens the health and safety of consumers and marine ecosystems. The genetic engineering of a complex life form represents an unprecedented disturbance of normal evolutionary processes, and exceptional caution should be taken before subjecting people and planet to such a genetic experiment. In my opinion, the requisite safety and ecological testing has not been done, and the introduction of GE salmon is thus unacceptable.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Newmark
Founder, Sacred Seeds, a 501c3 organization protecting biodiversity
Former CEO and Chairperson, New Chapter, Inc.
Principal, Finca Luna Nueva, an organic farm in Costa Rica
Board member, Greenpeace, Inc. USA
Trustee, the American Botanical Council
<tnewmark@tnewmark.com>

CC: Mayor

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February 19, 2013

From: Lisa Kassner, 17221 Tuba St., Northridge, CA 91325
818/831-8657
San Fernando Valley co-coordinator, Label GMOs campaign

To: Councilmember Mitchell Englander

Dear Councilmember Englander,

On Wed. 2/20, I urge you to support the measure proposed by Councilmember Paul Koretz, which urges the US FDA to NOT approve the sale of genetically engineered salmon.

I am a constituent in your district, living in Northridge. I am a volunteer with the Label GMOs campaign. As you know, millions of Californians voted yes on our Proposition 37, to get genetically engineered foods labeled. There are huge numbers of people who want to know about these foods and do not want to eat them - for health, environmental, and religious reasons.

Now is the time to take a stand with the senators, congress people, 300 organizations, and thousands of ordinary citizens who oppose the approval of this fish by the US Food & Drug Administration. Thank you!

More information: Here are some of the issues that cause us to be so concerned:

1. The FDA is treating this new animal as an animal "drug" which means they are not taking many significant concerns into consideration.
2. There has been no complete Environmental Impact Report required, although this fish has huge potential ramifications for (1) the wild salmon population, (2) the other animals that eat this salmon, and (3) the whole U.S. salmon fishing industry.
3. The limited health studies include only a dozen fish, and were done by the company who is looking for the approval. The FDA is ignoring indications of allergenicity in humans and the fact that this new fish is high in a growth hormone that has been linked to cancer
4. The FDA has been approached by 300 organizations - from consumer groups to environmental and health groups - and their concerns have not been addressed.
5. The FDA has also not respected the concern of the numerous U.S. senators and representatives who reject the approval of this fish based on such limited information.
6. This fish includes genes of a pout fish, which is an eel and considered unacceptable to Jews and possibly Muslims as well. Selling this fish could cause these people of faith to break the laws of their religion by eating it, and it would not even be required to be labeled. And the accidental interbreeding of the genetically engineered salmon with natural salmon could destroy the Jewish cultural tradition of bagels and lox forever.

cc: City Council, Mayor

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