



*working through science, law and creative media to secure a future for all species,  
great or small, hovering on the brink of extinction.*

February 13, 2013

VIA USPS and Electronic Mail

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

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
2013 FEB 15 PM 3:17  
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DEPUTY

Re: Pass Resolution 13-0002-S22 - Oppose Genetically Engineered Salmon

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity ("Center") and our 450,000 members and online activists, including members within the city of Los Angeles, we strongly support Resolution 13-0002-S22 opposing any action by the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") to approve genetically engineered ("GE") salmon. The Center is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has further worked to address the ecological impacts posed by GE salmon. We urge the City of Los Angeles to pass resolution 13-0002-S22.

Many people are concerned about the health risks of eating GE foods. But genetic engineering of fish also poses threats for wild salmon, which are already at grave risk from a host of threats such as dams, pollution, aquaculture operations and climate change. Farmed salmon regularly escape into the wild, and research has shown that the release of only a few dozen genetically engineered fish could lead to the extinction of an entire wild salmon population. Unfortunately, the FDA has given inadequate consideration to the impacts of GE salmon on wild salmon stocks, and has not taken the minimal step to require nationwide consumer labeling for the fish.

Industrially raised GE salmon are a major threat to wild salmon stocks. They carry parasites and diseases transferable to wild fish; fish farms pollute waters with pesticides and other contaminants. When they escape, which is often, aquaculture GE fish may interbreed with wild stock, passing on traits to subsequent generations that diminish their adaptability to conditions in the wild. Studies have found that the presence of aquaculture operations reduced the survival or abundance of nearby wild salmon populations by more than 50 percent, on average. Endangered Atlantic salmon on the east coast of the United States are especially jeopardized by the potential for GE fish to escape into the wild because of the close genetic relationship between the wild fish and the engineered ones.

The potential consequences for aquatic ecosystems, as well as human health, are far too serious to allow the FDA to approve this risky biotechnology. The Center urges the City of Los Angeles to pass resolution 13-0002-S22 opposing any action by the FDA to approve GE salmon and support for any legislation which would prohibit the FDA from such an approval.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Evans  
Toxics and Endangered Species Campaign Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

cc (via electronic mail):

Andy Shrader  
Deputy of Environmental Affairs & Sustainability  
Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz

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