



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

CF # 13-0002-522

February 14, 2013

RE: Support for Resolution opposing GE Salmon

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

Food & Water Watch, a consumer advocacy organization working to protect our food supply, is pleased to support your resolution that opposes the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) approval of genetically engineered salmon in the United States.

We have serious concerns about the risks of genetically engineered salmon on human health. There has never been genetically engineered meat in the food supply before, and AquaBounty's laboratory-created salmon has not undergone the necessary independent testing to assure its safety for human consumption. Research already indicates that the engineered salmon product will be lower in omega-3s and higher in growth hormones that have been linked to cancer, and may be higher in contaminants like mercury and PCBs.

Additionally, we are concerned about the threat of genetically engineered salmon to wild fish populations, and to wild Pacific salmon populations in particular. Wild Pacific salmon is a vital economic and public resource for commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing communities, and commercial fishing brings in billions of dollars to the California economy each year. Displacement of the market for wild salmon caused by confusion over AquaBounty's genetically engineered counterpart in the marketplace could devastate fishing communities, just as the introduction of farmed salmon into the marketplace did in the 1990s.

Even worse, an escape of this risky creature into Pacific waters could have a long-term impact on the health of West Coast fish populations, whether they are salmon or not, as AquaBounty's salmon is demonstrated to be more aggressive in seeking food and shelter than wild fish.

We applaud you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Adam Scow, California Campaigns Director

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