

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 04/01/2013
Drafted by: J.W. Hartle

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2639

A Resolution Expressing the Assembly's Opposition to Approval of Genetically Modified Atlantic Salmon by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

WHEREAS, the Assembly understands that AquaBounty Technologies, Inc., has submitted an application to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval of the AquAdvantage® Salmon, a genetically modified Atlantic salmon, for human consumption and marketing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this is the first genetically modified animal intended to be used as food in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Veterinary Medicine prepared the "Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) report for the FDA, which expresses support for approval of the AquAdvantage® Salmon; and

WHEREAS, the FONSI report states the social, economic and cultural effects of approving the rearing and eventual sale of the genetically modified AquAdvantage® Salmon to citizens of the United States have not been fully analyzed and evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the AquAdvantage® Salmon was bred by inserting a Pacific Chinook salmon growth hormone gene and an Ocean Pout antifreeze protein gene into fertilized eggs of wild Atlantic salmon. The fish that develop from these eggs have an enhanced growth rate compared to wild Atlantic salmon; and

WHEREAS, AquaBounty proposes fertilization and incubation to the eyed-egg stage on Prince Edward Island, Canada; shipment of the eyed-eggs to Panama; grow-out and processing of fish in Panama; and, shipment of processed fish to the United States for retail sale. AquaBounty maintains the land based rearing of the AquAdvantage® Salmon to be safely contained with a minimum risk of escapement into the wild; and, in the event there is an escape, believes the geographical area of the salmon rearing is unfavorable to the survival of AquAdvantage® Salmon; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans know all too well that fish farming containment measures are not fail-safe. Escaped farmed Atlantic salmon from British Columbia fish farms have been found in Alaskan waters with wild stocks of Pacific salmon. In addition, AquaBounty does not adequately address the possibility of eyed-eggs making their way into the Prince Edward Island streams that are the spawning grounds for Atlantic salmon; and

WHEREAS, the FDA review of AquaAdvantage® Salmon has been ongoing for approximately 15 years, yet the product has not been the subject of thorough scientific research and testing to ensure its consumption by humans is safe in the long term; and

WHEREAS, many consumers purchase salmon for its widely recognized health benefits and inadequate safety testing could weaken consumer confidence, leading to reduced sales of all salmon products; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's wild seafood industry, which is essential to the health of the overall state economy and a key economic driver in the Juneau area, could be severely impacted by the sale of genetically modified salmon; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has so far been unwilling to mandate labeling of genetically engineered seafood and Alaska statutes require that genetically modified seafood and seafood products be conspicuously labeled as such (AS 17.20.040).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau objects to the FDA's "Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact" and the approval of genetically engineered seafood for sale in the United States.

Section 2. That should the FDA approve AquaBounty's application to market their modified salmon in the United States, despite strong environmental and human health concerns, and lacking the evaluation of the social, economic and cultural effects on the United States and its citizens, it is critical that the FDA also require the product to be prominently labeled as "Genetically Modified", so that consumers can make an informed choice regarding their health and well-being.

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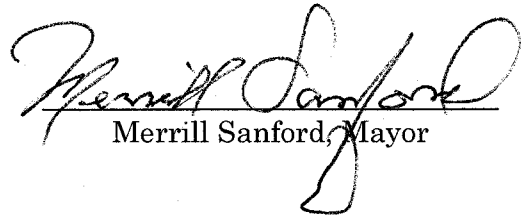
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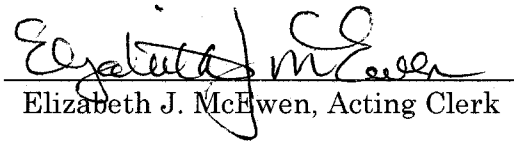
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Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 1st day of April, 2013.


Merrill Sanford, Mayor

Attest:


Elizabeth J. McHwen, Acting Clerk