

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2011

Commissioner Margaret Hamburg, M.D.  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20993

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

Congressional opposition to the approval of Genetically Engineered (GE) salmon for human consumption was reconfirmed following passage, by voice vote, of the Young-Woolsey amendment in the United States House of Representatives on June 15, 2011. This amendment, included as part of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2012, would prohibit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from using funds to approve GE salmon. This is consistent with the 29 Members of the United States House of Representatives who wrote to you last year urging you to halt the approval process for this fish.

This broad opposition stems from serious concerns regarding the review process currently being used by the FDA to review AquaBounty Technologies' application. At present, the FDA currently does not have adequate means to assess the GE salmon as an animal intended for human consumption. However, instead of delaying consideration until an appropriate federal process is developed, the FDA is currently proceeding with approval of the GE fish using the agency's existing process designed to review new drugs meant for use on animals.

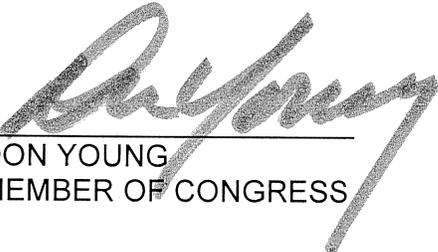
Furthermore, the Environmental Assessment, compiled by AquaBounty and reviewed by the FDA, is inherently flawed as it fails to take into account the full range of environmental and socio-economical risks that the proliferation of GE fish pose to wild fish, commercial and recreational fishermen, and natural ecosystems. Rather than accept AquaBounty's conclusions, the FDA should undertake and complete a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including fully consulting with other federal agencies with responsibility for protecting ocean ecosystems and federally listed Endangered Species.

Language similar to the Young-Woolsey amendment has been drafted for introduction in the United States Senate. Given the strong and ever-growing Congressional opposition to the approval of GE salmon in both chambers, we conclude that spending more time and additional taxpayer money on reviewing GE fish would not be in the public interest.

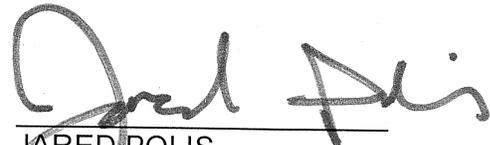
We strongly urge you to immediately cease your approval process for GE salmon.

Thank you for your consideration.

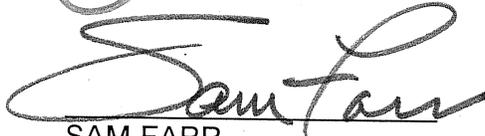
Sincerely,

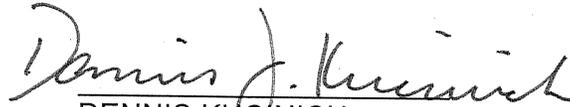
  
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DON YOUNG  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

  
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LYNN WOOLSEY  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

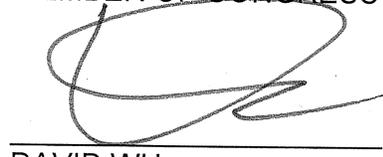
  
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