



CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY



NATIVE SPECIES PROJECT

**Please support HB 4122
Oregonians Deserve the Right to Know
Real Salmon from Genetically Engineered Salmon**

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

We are writing to encourage you to support HB 4122 and give Oregonians a basic tool to tell the difference between real salmon that has been caught in the Northwest and salmon that has been genetically engineered and raised in tanks. For a myriad of reasons, many Oregonians strongly support having the ability to know whether or not the salmon they are buying for their family has been genetically engineered. There is no credible argument that labeling genetically engineered salmon is complicated, expensive, or would be any meaningful burden on retailers or wholesalers.

The significant public concerns about eating genetically engineered salmon have already resulted in a number of major retailers, such as Costco and Walmart, refusing to carry GE salmon at all. But once genetically engineered salmon starts to reach Oregon markets it is likely to cause significant concern and have potentially serious adverse impacts on salmon sales generally if consumers are unable to be confident that the salmon they are buying is not genetically engineered.

While this would be bad for consumers it also puts Oregon salmon fishermen and women at risk. We believe that Oregon commercial fishers that take the risks and make the investment in salmon fishing should have the right to be fairly paid for the real fish they catch. If consumers are unable to tell the difference between real salmon and salmon that have been genetically engineered then the Oregon commercial fishing industry may not be able to get a fair and honest price for the product they are selling.

While consumers' lack of information and knowledge may narrowly benefit those selling GE salmon it is clearly contrary to the public interest and the undermines keeping Oregonians informed about the food we are eating.

Thank you for your time in considering these comments,

Sincerely,

George Kimbrell, Center for Food Safety
Julia DeGraw, Food & Water Watch
Paige Richardson, Oregon Right to Know
Michelle Hollister, Native Species Project