



OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214
PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281
OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG
WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

To: Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 23, 2016

RE: House Bill 4122 A

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 22,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony in support of House Bill 4122 A. We believe that this bill, which would require genetically engineered (GE) fish sold in retail stores to be clearly labeled as such, is sensible and necessary for Oregon.

Without mandatory food labeling laws such as that envisioned by HB 4122 A, Oregon consumers will be unable to tell whether they are buying wild-caught fish from the Pacific Northwest or Alaska, or GE fish that may pose a threat to the environment and Oregon's commercial fishing industry. People should know what type of fish they are buying so they will be encouraged to purchase wild-caught fish harvested by Oregon fishermen and thus support Oregon's economy.

We believe this is largely a right-to-know bill and that Oregon consumers deserve labeling on fish they buy so that they can make informed decisions about their purchases. Those purchases could then have beneficial impacts on the Oregon commercial fishing industry and the environment. Oregonians have a right to know the source of the fish they buy and whether it is wild-caught or genetically engineered in a fish farm.

In sum, HB 4122 A will allow Oregonians to make informed choices on the fish they buy and we urge your support for this legislation. Thank you very much for considering my comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance to the committee.