

From the Desk of
Representative Paul Holvey



Support for HB 4122A

Mandatory labeling for Genetically Engineered fish

Oregon's leading conservation groups urge your support for HB 4122, which would require genetically engineered fish sold in retail stores to be clearly labeled as such.

In 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of genetically engineered (GE) salmon in domestic markets. This salmon will be enhanced with the growth promotion genes of a fish called the ocean pout, which will allow salmon raised in farms to grow faster and bigger.

Without mandatory food labeling laws, Oregon consumers will be unable to tell whether they are buying wild caught fish from the Pacific Northwest or Alaska, or genetically engineered 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 can purchase wild caught fish harvested by Oregon fishermen and thus support Oregon's economy.

GE salmon can present a threat to the environment as escapees from these fish farms can get in the ocean and pose a genetic threat to wild ocean salmon. The possible impact of GE salmon to ocean salmon populations could be huge.

Oregon consumers deserve labeling on fish they buy. This will help them make informed decisions at the time of purchase that could have an impact on the Oregon commercial fishing industry and the environment. They deserve to know the source of the fish they buy and whether it is wild caught or genetically engineered in a fish farm.

We feel that it is the right of all Oregonians to know what the ingredients are in a packaged food they purchase at stores. This should also apply to the purchase of fish; Oregon buyers should know what type of fish they are buying in order to make the right decisions for their family.

Genetically engineered fish can have a negative impact on the Oregon economy and environment. HB 4122A will allow Oregonians to make informed choices on the fish they buy.

We urge your support of HB 4122A.



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