

FROM THE DESK OF MIKE NEARMAN



**Please say NO to House Bill 4122**

House Bill 4122 would require the labeling of any fish sold in Oregon that have been genetically engineered (GE). This law is not only unnecessary-- it sets up the potential for a confusing patchwork of labeling regulations across the country.

**Unnecessary**

To date there is only one variety of GE fish approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for human consumption. This variety of Atlantic salmon is approved to be grown in inland tanks in Panama and imported to the US. BUT, due to congressional action, this *fish is not allowed to be imported until the FDA does a review to determine what the federal labeling requirements should be.*

HB 4122 sets up an Oregon specific labeling standard that likely will not match the federal standard developed by the FDA. This means that when this GE salmon is finally approved for import, Oregon will have a different labeling requirement than the rest of the country.

**Confusing**

In light of the FDA labeling review for GE fish, it would be premature for Oregon to craft its own standards. Unique state by state food labeling requirements would provide no meaningful additional information, but could cause confusion for processors, distributors and consumers.

**Support Oregon Growers, Processors and Consumers**

Food labels should be consistent across the country, regardless of the product. A state by state approach leads to confusion and can disadvantage Oregon growers, processors and consumers. Please say NO to Oregon specific labeling requirements and reject HB 4122.

