

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2011

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

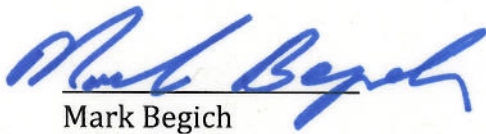
Dear Commissioner Hamburg:

Congressional opposition to the approval of Genetically Engineered (GE) fish for human consumption was recently reaffirmed with the passage by voice vote in the United States House of Representatives of the Young-Woolsey amendment which would bar the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from using funds for the approval of GE salmon. This is consistent with the message of the 11 United States Senators who wrote last year urging your agency to halt the approval process.

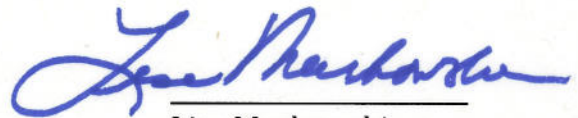
This widespread opposition is based on a variety of concerns from potential threats to public health and the environment to the socio-economic impacts on producers of sustainable wild salmon. We are concerned that the FDA's review of GE salmon uses the same criteria as it would for approving a veterinary drug. This level of genetic manipulation is clearly not a veterinary drug. In addition, the lack of transparency in the approval process is extremely disconcerting given that approval of GE fish is likely the first step toward approval of many more GE animals for human consumption.

Language similar to the Young-Woolsey amendment has been drafted for introduction in the United States Senate. Given the strong and growing Congressional opposition to the approval of GE fish in both chambers, spending time on further review of GE fish would be a waste of taxpayer dollars. We strongly urge you to immediately cease your approval process for GE salmon.

Sincerely,

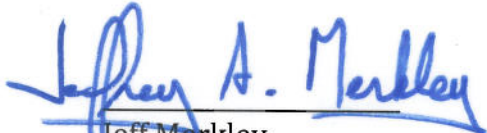


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United States Senator




Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

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