City of Coffman Cove

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WHEREAS, many salmon consumers purchase the product for its widely recognized health benefits, and this lack of safe consumption testing could weaken consumer confidence in all salmon products. Weakened consumer confidence would cause undue financial stress on all wild seafood based livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s wild seafood industry, which is extremely important to the state’s economy and is one of the largest industries in Coffman Cove, could be severely impacted by the sale of genetically modified salmon; and

WHEREAS, there is no shortage of farmed Atlantic salmon. The sole purpose of genetically modifying Atlantic salmon is to increase profits for biotechnology firms and salmon farms by creating faster growing fish. While most consumers prefer wild salmon, if the price difference between wild and farmed salmon widens due to a flooded farmed salmon market with the faster-growing AquaAdvantage Salmon, the probability that a consumer chooses farmed salmon will increase. This will directly harm our commercial fishermen; and

WHEREAS, should the FDA approve AquaBounty’s application to market their product in the United States, it is critical that the product be mandated to be clearly labeled “Genetically Modified” to allow consumers to make an informed choice regarding their health and well-being. Alaska statutes require such labels be prominently displayed on the front of the package.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Coffman Cove City Council by this resolution does not support the FDA’S “Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact” or approval of genetically engineered salmon for sale in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if, despite strong environmental and human health concerns and lacking the evaluation of the social, economic and cultural effects on the United States and its citizens, the application is approved by the FDA, product labeling requirements should include the words “Genetically Modified” prominently displayed in a minimum font size and a contrasting color on the front of the package.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this _________of _________, 2013.

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MAYOR, CAROLYN DUNCAN    CITY CLERK, JEAN SODERBERG