



October 18, 2017

Dear CEO,

On behalf of consumer, food safety, environmental, sustainable agriculture organizations, representing millions of members in the U.S. and Canada, **we are writing to thank your company for its commitment to not sell genetically engineered salmon. In light of the recent export of GE salmon to Canada, this commitment is more important than ever.**

On November 19, 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the genetically engineered AquaAdvantage salmon created by AquaBounty Technologies Inc. A similar situation has developed in Canada where the GE salmon is now also permitted for sale. However, due to the many sustainability and health concerns surrounding genetically engineered salmon and the lack of consumer demand, [80 food retailers have said that they will not sell GE salmon.](#)

The FDA's flawed regulatory approval unfortunately does not ensure that this transgenic fish is safe for human consumption or environmentally sustainable. The FDA approved the GE salmon without a thorough Environmental Impact Statement, and despite the extensive independent scientific evidence demonstrating that genetically engineered salmon may pose **numerous human health, environmental, animal welfare and economic risks.** In Canada, the science behind approval of the GE salmon remains confidential, leaving many concerns about scientific rigor.

The sale of GE salmon in the U.S. is not currently permitted. In June 2016, the FDA announced an [import ban on GE salmon](#) until labeling guidelines have been published.

Between April-June 2017, GE salmon was [sold](#) for the first time, in Canada. Recent [evidence](#) suggests that the GE salmon may have gone exclusively into the Quebec market. The GE salmon remains unlabeled and its sale locations are not disclosed, making it infeasible for consumers to make [informed purchases.](#)

At a time when consumers are making it clear that they want more transparency and sustainability, your company's commitment to not sell GE salmon is critical.

True seafood sustainability requires leadership and strong policies to prevent threats to our oceans and fisheries, such as those posed by genetically engineered salmon. Your company has stated that sustainability is a critical part of its sourcing, and we are pleased to see that reflected in the company's position on this issue. We applaud your company for its clear commitment to not sell GE salmon in its stores, including those in the U.S. and Canada, and for being consistent with your company's stated commitments to sustainability.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and please contact [Dana Perls](#) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dana Perls  
Senior Food and Technology Campaigner  
**Friends of the Earth U.S.**



Lucy Sharratt  
Coordinator  
**Canadian Biotechnology Action Network**

Heather Whitehead  
Digital Engagement and Advocacy Director  
**Center for Food Safety**

Heather Day  
Executive Director  
**Community Alliance for Global Justice**

Patty Lovera  
Assistant Director  
**Food and Water Watch**

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Esq.  
Political Director  
**Organic Consumers Association**

CC: Bart Beilman, Global Vice President of Supply Chain and Retail Operations