

Submitter: Mikindra Morin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB89

Good morning Chair Golden and members of the committee,

My name is Mikindra Morin, and I am testifying in support of SB89 and HB2655 on behalf of Food & Water Watch, an organization with 84,000 supporting members in Oregon that believe we should fight for safe food, clean water, and a livable climate. This bill addresses several of the most significant ecological hazards posed by large-scale industrial aquaculture, in particular the use of marine net pens, one of the most environmentally risky forms of aquatic animal farming. Marine net pens are well-known for their adverse environmental impacts. These include disease and parasite spread from aquaculture facilities to wild fish and other wildlife; fish escapes from aquaculture facilities into surrounding ecosystems; water quality degradation from aquaculture inputs (e.g., antibiotics, pesticides, fungicides) and outputs (fish feed and feces); the privatization of public ocean resources; threats to marine life and marine ecosystems; market displacement and price competition from cheaply produced farmed fish; adverse economic effects on fishing businesses; and trickle-down effects to communities and families that depend on healthy wild fish stocks and ocean ecosystems for their livelihoods. To avoid these inevitable harms, this bill prohibits marine net pen fish farming in Oregon. It is notable that Washington state just prohibited all commercial net pen aquaculture in state marine waters and that California and Alaska have also banned net pens. There are also additional protections for the environment in this bill: it will reduce plastic use and reduce the risk of disease spread among native populations. In order to protect our water and ecosystems, and to achieve a livable climate for all of us, Oregon must act now.