



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

January 30, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2557

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee:

On behalf the Humane Society of the United States and our Oregon supporters, I write in support of HB 2557, legislation that would prohibit the raising and selling of farmed Octopus for human consumption. If passed, this law would make Oregon the third U.S. state to ban octopus farming, following in the steps of Washington and California, creating a West Coast bloc. This measure would preempt the controversial and cruel industry before it has an opportunity to develop in our state.

Octopuses are sentient beings with significant cognitive abilities and can learn new skills, navigate complex mazes, are known escape artists, and even use tools. Due to their complex mental ability, octopuses have high enrichment needs that simply cannot be met in farming environments. Intensively confining these highly intelligent, solitary animals in unnatural farming conditions is inhumane, as there is a high likelihood of stress, aggressive activity, and high mortality among octopuses in these settings.

In addition to these welfare concerns, the environmental implications of octopus farming are manifold. These carnivorous animals require diets rich in marine ingredients at a 3:1 food conversion ratio, exacerbating the pressure on already declining wild fish populations and undermining global sustainable development goals. Large-scale aquatic farms serve as breeding grounds for pathogenic bacteria, contributing to the dangerous proliferation of multidrug-resistant bacteria. The discharge of new effluents and the risk of farm escapes threaten local ecosystems and biodiversity, emphasizing the need for stringent environmental safeguards.

Octopus farming is unsustainable, environmentally destructive, and inhumane. We believe now is the time to take proactive steps to protect these magnificent creatures to ensure that octopus farms, and the inherent risks that come with them.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important issue.

Sincerely,

Kelly Peterson
Oregon Senior State Director
The Humane Society of the United States