

Submitter: Anna Voevodina

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2557

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

As an Oregon resident, I strongly support House Bill 2557, which seeks to prohibit the farming of octopuses for human consumption in our state.

Octopuses are not just intelligent—they are some of the most remarkable creatures on Earth. Studies have shown that they can solve complex puzzles, use tools, recognize individual humans, and even escape from enclosures by opening jars and navigating mazes. Their nervous system is uniquely distributed, with neurons spread across their arms, allowing them to process information and make independent decisions with each limb. They can also exhibit playful behavior, remember past experiences, and display problem-solving skills comparable to those of primates.

Given their extraordinary intelligence, it is no surprise that octopuses experience emotions, pain, and stress in captivity. Attempts to farm them would subject these sensitive animals to unnatural, confined conditions, depriving them of the rich, exploratory environments they require to thrive. Unlike fish, which often group naturally, octopuses are solitary creatures, making forced enclosures particularly harmful, leading to high levels of aggression and self-mutilation.

Beyond ethical concerns, industrial octopus farming also poses significant environmental threats. It would require vast amounts of feed—primarily wild-caught fish—placing additional strain on already overfished marine populations. The waste generated from such operations could further damage fragile marine ecosystems. Oregon has long prided itself on sustainable and science-based policymaking—allowing octopus farming would be a step backward, not forward.

Passing HB 2557 would position Oregon as a leader in compassionate, science-driven policy, rejecting an industry that is both cruel and ecologically harmful. I urge you to vote in favor of this important bill and protect these intelligent, sentient creatures from an inhumane and unnecessary fate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Anna Voevodina