

Submitter: Kerrie Espuga

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2557

The need for legislative action is urgent as researchers internationally plan to industrialize octopus farming, with the capacity to produce one million octopuses annually. The two largest reasons to prohibit octopus farming: Massive octopus waste causes toxicity to our waters, and it's very cruel.

Such operations come with a staggering 10-15% mortality rate—amounting to as many as 150,000 premature deaths each year. These mortality rates highlight the unsuitability of farming these sentient creatures and signal unsustainable practices that carry dire environmental consequences.

Octopus and crustaceans are now recognized as sentient beings by over 300 studies reviewed by the London School of Economics. This groundbreaking research prompted the UK to formally acknowledge their cognitive abilities and incorporate these findings into their Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act.

The nitrogen and phosphorus rich waste from industrial octopus farming would exacerbate bacterial contamination in waterways, intensify HAB (harmful algal bloom) occurrences, and lead to increased beach closures, harming tourism and local economies.

I urge you to support the prohibition of octopus farming.

Thank you.