

Testimony in Support of HB 2557

I write in support of HB 2557, which would impose civil penalties on any person in Oregon who raises an octopus for human consumption or participates in the sale or offer to sell an octopus raised for this purpose.

Thanks to Representative Neron, I had the honor of joining others to learn about this issue from 9-year-old Lily Niederhofer, who lives in Portugal and swam 2 kilometers in the Atlantic Ocean to help raise funds for the campaign to stop the world's first commercial octopus farm in Spain.

No Oregonian will suffer from the absence of octopus in their diet. However, Oregonians will suffer from participating directly or indirectly in such a cruel practice.

Octopuses are unique, intelligent creatures known to use tools, complete tricky tasks, and recognize individuals of other species, including human faces. An octopus's brain-to-body ratio is the largest of any invertebrate and larger than many vertebrates. Octopuses have about as many neurons as a dog – the common octopus, *Octopus vulgaris*, has around 500 million.

Naturally solitary, octopuses are entirely unsuited to confinement and would suffer in overcrowded factory farms. They would also be slaughtered using a cruel method called 'ice slurry,' which causes a slow and painful death.

We cannot count on today's federal government. We cannot count on consumers being educated on the cruelty behind the food they buy. We count on you, our elected Representatives. Thank you for your service.

John D. Vandenberg
29040 S.W. Baker Road
Sherwood, OR 97140