

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

My name is Lily Niederhofer and I am here to ask you to support HB 2557, which would stop the farming of octopuses for food and ban the sale of farmed octopus meat in Oregon.

Octopuses are amazing animals! My love for them started with a school project, where I learned all kinds of interesting facts about them — like how they can change color in an instant, they have three hearts, and even nine brains! But what really stuck with me is that octopuses can feel. They are smart, curious, and sensitive to the world around them.

Even though we know how incredible octopuses are, some companies are making plans to industrially farm them. The biggest plan is happening in Spain, where a company wants to raise one million octopuses in small tanks inside a building on a harbor parking lot. But octopuses are not meant to live this way. They are solitary and don't do well in crowded spaces. They also eat a lot of fish, which would take food away from wild ocean life and make these plans unsustainable. And worst of all, there is no humane way to kill them in large numbers. These farms would also pollute the ocean, making things even worse for marine life.

When I found out about these plans, I wanted to help. So, I challenged myself to swim 2 kilometres in the Atlantic Ocean and raised over \$12,000 to support the fight against octopus farming. But I didn't stop there. Last summer, I travelled to Oregon, Washington State, and California to speak with representatives and voters about why octopus farming should never be allowed. I was inspired by the actions taken in California and Washington, and I hope that together we can make a difference in Oregon too.

The United States has always been a leader in recognizing how special octopuses are. Many people learned about them from documentaries, and some states have already taken action to stop octopus farming. Now, Oregon has a chance to make an impact—not just here, but around the world. Where the U.S. leads, Europe follows. Your decision in Oregon matters far beyond your state or even the country — it can help set a global example.

Stopping octopus farming before it starts is the right thing to do. It shows that we care about animals, the ocean, and our future. It gives young people like me hope that kindness and science can guide the way we treat our world.

I urge you to support HB 2557 and help protect octopuses from a future they don't deserve.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my voice.

Lily Niederhofer