

Submitter: Nicholas Selby

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2557

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicholas Selby, and I am writing in strong support of HB 2557, which would prohibit the farming and sale of farmed octopuses for human consumption in Oregon. As an advocate for animal rights, I urge you to pass this bill to prevent the introduction of a cruel and environmentally harmful industry into our state.

Octopuses are among the most intelligent and complex animals in the ocean. Scientific research has demonstrated their advanced problem-solving abilities, remarkable memory, and capacity for experiencing pain and distress. These sentient beings are known for their curiosity and ability to form unique behaviors, making them fundamentally unsuitable for intensive farming. Unlike other animals raised for food, octopuses are solitary creatures who thrive in open water environments. Confining them in factory farm conditions would cause immense suffering, leading to stress, aggression, and premature death.

Beyond ethical concerns, octopus farming presents serious environmental risks. The high-protein diet required to sustain farmed octopuses would place additional pressure on global fish stocks, worsening the already dire state of overfishing. Additionally, waste runoff from octopus farms could pollute marine ecosystems, further harming biodiversity and local fisheries. As Oregon continues to take steps toward more sustainable food systems, legalizing octopus farming would be a step in the wrong direction.

Oregon has an opportunity to be a leader in compassionate and science-based policy by preventing an industry that is inherently inhumane and unsustainable. I urge you to stand against the farming of octopuses and vote in favor of HB 2557. Thank you for your time and for considering this crucial issue.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Selby
Portland, Oregon