

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of [HB 2557](#)

February 3, 2025

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

I write to you today in **strong support of HB2557**, a bill to proactively **ban the sale of farmed octopuses** in the state of Oregon.

Octopuses are sentient, reclusive, and brilliant creatures. They are without a doubt one of my favorite animals to learn about. They are widely regarded as one of the most intelligent animals on Earth. Their ability to adapt is so sophisticated that as temperatures rise in our oceans, in waters where they are not overfished, wild octopus populations are experiencing population growth, rather than decline.

HB2557 is about stopping inhumane practices before they start in Oregon and sending a clear message to other regions who might consider allowing this practice, that the West Coastline of the United States is unified in our opposition to this cruel and problematic farming practice. Washington and California have already banned this practice in recent sessions and it is Oregon's turn to protect our Pacific coastline.

By stopping this industry before it starts in our state, we will be protecting against intensive octopus farms which present public health concerns as well as environmental challenges like depletion of wild fish stocks, waste leading to nutrient pollution, high energy consumption, and disruption of local coastal habitats. This is not the kind of industry we want to grow in our state.

Let's stop octopus farming before it starts and send a clear message to the world about Oregon's values for conservation and humane practices. **I urge your support of [HB2557](#).**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville