

February 5, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Opposition to HB 2557

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

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is the state's most inclusive agriculture organization, proudly representing over 6500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. From hops and hazelnuts to cattle, cranberries, and timber with operations spanning from just a few acres to thousands, our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech.

OFB opposes House Bill 2557, which would prohibit the farming and sale of octopuses raised for human consumption. While octopus farming is not currently practiced in Oregon, **this bill sets a concerning precedent for the state's agricultural and aquaculture industries by banning the production of a legal commodity without clear, science-based justification.**

OFB has long maintained that farm use is a right, and **we oppose any unnecessary restrictions on agricultural production unless they are directly tied to public health and safety.** The prohibition outlined in HB 2557 is inconsistent with OFB's policy of protecting economic opportunity for farmers and ranchers, ensuring that agricultural operations are not unfairly restricted, and upholding the principle that **private landowners should have the freedom to engage in lawful farming activities.**

Additionally, OFB has previously opposed efforts to **ban specific crops or livestock** without sound scientific reasoning, instead supporting regulation only when necessary for **managing disease, pests, or other legitimate agricultural concerns.** HB 2557 does not meet these criteria and instead represents an unnecessary government intrusion into private enterprise.

If enacted, this bill could **set a harmful precedent for banning other forms of aquaculture or animal husbandry,** limiting future opportunities for Oregon's seafood industry. Oregon farmers and ranchers rely on a **stable regulatory environment that supports innovation and diversification,** not one that arbitrarily prohibits legal agricultural practices.

For these reasons, the Oregon Farm Bureau urges **legislators to oppose HB 2557** and instead focus on policies that support Oregon's diverse and growing agricultural economy.