

Submitter: Phil Gibson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I strongly oppose HB 2965 because responsible aquaculture supports the sustainability of wild fisheries. The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and NOAA all recognize that aquaculture is essential to reducing pressure on wild fish stocks while providing a stable, climate-friendly source of seafood. Without local aquaculture, we will continue to rely on imported seafood from countries with weaker environmental standards, increasing carbon emissions and putting more pressure on wild fish stocks globally. It is inconceivable that the legislature would harm its citizens' environment by banning the best form of protein farming in the world. The future of sustainable marine harvest of seafood is not in wild capture, which is under duress for many species. The future is aquaculture. Rather than expend energy unnecessarily trying to subvert the future, it is far better to embrace practices that promote sustainable aquaculture practices, which are a far superior solution for providing food for human populations than terrestrial animal farming. Please vote NO on HB 2965.