

Submitter: Gary Fornshell
On Behalf Of: Northwest Aquaculture Alliance
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

HB 2965 is not based on science, and I strongly oppose this unnecessary legislation. Multiple peer-reviewed studies, including a NOAA-led Pacific Northwest study, have demonstrated that well-regulated aquaculture can be done safely with minimal environmental impact. Other progressive seafood-producing nations, including Iceland and New Zealand, have embraced aquaculture as a sustainable solution. Even Alaska's governor has recently voiced support for aquaculture as a way to strengthen the seafood industry. Oregon should be making decisions based on science, not misinformation or activist pressure. Furthermore, 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. I urge you to oppose HB 2965 and instead focus on responsible, science-driven policy.