

Submitter: Andrew Jenssen

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I urge you to not move HB 2965 out of committee. Banning finfish aquaculture in Oregon before it even exists is an extreme and unnecessary step that ignores science and shuts down potential economic opportunities for our state. Other regions have successfully developed well-regulated, sustainable aquaculture that supports food security, job creation, and wild fisheries. Oregon should not take an anti-business, anti-innovation stance that limits our ability to adapt and grow in the future. Please oppose this bill and allow for science-based discussions on aquaculture's role in Oregon's seafood economy.

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. I urge you to oppose HB 2965 and instead focus on responsible, science-driven policy.

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. Oregon should be a leader in sustainable seafood, not a state that bans responsible innovation. Please vote NO on HB 2965.