

Submitter: Jacob Bledsoe  
On Behalf Of: Idaho Aquaculture Association  
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural  
Resources, and Water  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2955, a bill that seeks to ban finfish aquaculture in Oregon before it even has the chance to develop. This legislation is premature, anti-science, and anti-business, setting a dangerous precedent that could stifle responsible seafood production and future economic opportunities.

As an aquaculture scientist and an advocate for sustainable fisheries, I have worked extensively with fish farmers, researchers, and policymakers across the U.S. and internationally. Appropriately-regulated, science-based aquaculture can provide a sustainable, locally sourced seafood option while reducing pressure on wild fish stocks. The World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and NOAA all recognize aquaculture as a necessary component of future seafood security. Banning it outright ignores decades of research demonstrating how responsible aquaculture can complement wild fisheries and strengthen the seafood industry.

Oregon has the opportunity to lead with a forward-thinking approach to seafood production. Many regions, including Alaska lately, have recognized the potential of aquaculture to support local economies while maintaining high environmental standards. If HB 2955 passes, Oregon will not only turn away investment and job creation but also increase its reliance on imported seafood from countries with weaker environmental regulations, increasing carbon emissions and putting more strain on global fish stocks.

Instead of banning an entire industry preemptively, I urge this committee to support science-driven policymaking that allows for responsible, well-regulated aquaculture to be part of Oregon's seafood economy. Please vote NO on HB 2955.

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