

Submitter: Charlotte Maloney

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I strongly urge you support move HB 2965-5 through the steps of passing this bill into law. As a senior citizen and an Oregonian, it's important to me that we protect Oregon's coastal waters from the harms of industrial aquaculture. It has been scientifically proven that net pen aquaculture of finfish causes environmental and socioeconomic harms, and we want Oregon to prevent an influx of such operations now that they are banned or seriously restricted on the rest of the West Coast.

I have kayaked in the water off Vancouver Island many times in areas where Atlantic salmon were raised. The pens concentrated debris from uneaten food, excrement, and pathogens caused by living in "tight quarter." There was scientific research in 2020 showing wild fish were infected with the pathogens, which moved to the surrounding water. (Reference: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-salmon-farms-pathogen-risk-1.5770154>) Please prevent this risk on our coast. Thank you for considering my comments.