

Submitter: Nicholas Selby

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I am writing in strong support of HB 2965 because Oregon's coastal waters and wild fisheries deserve better protections from the harmful impacts of industrial net-pen aquaculture. These net pens, they confine farmed fish in open water, allowing massive amounts of fish waste, feed, antibiotics, and chemicals to flow directly into our marine ecosystems! These facilities produce massive amounts of pollution (up to a million pounds of waste annually per farm) and have repeatedly led to large-scale escapes of invasive fish, disrupting native ecosystems and threatening wild fish populations.

HB 2965 DOES NOT seek to ban aquaculture but instead encourages responsible, sustainable practices that protect our environment and the communities that rely on it. Industrial net pens do not ease pressure on wild fish stocks, as many farmed fish require wild-caught fish for feed, further contributing to overfishing. Oregon has an opportunity to promote smarter aquaculture practices that minimize environmental harm while supporting the industry's long-term viability. I urge you to support HB 2965 and help ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for Oregon's waters. Thank you.