

Submitter: Richard Wisner

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

February 26th 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water-skiing  
Re: House Bill 2965

Dear Co-Chairs Representative Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Representative McDonald and members of the Committee:

The sponsors and supporters of this bill are getting a bit carried away with themselves. First it's octopus and now it's fish. Environmental groups argue fish that are clustered together in net pens can release harmful waste, feed, disease and other pathogens to surrounding waters. Harmful waste? Other pathogens? Like what for example?

Apparently octopus farms are on their way to being banned due to HB 2557, which makes similar claims as the supporters of this legislation, even though for all practical purposes virtually no one is farming octopi anywhere on the planet.

Consider this; octopi are mollusks. Oysters are also mollusks.

Has anyone in this Committee ever heard of Oregon Oyster Company—currently Oregon Oyster Farms—situated up the Yaquina River from Newport? Oregon Oyster has been in business—raising oyster in "pens" since the first decade of the 1900s. Over 1000 years now. I'd like the supporters of this legislation to point out precisely what and where the waters of Yaquina River and Bay, or anywhere else, have been degraded due to their presence.

Again, it is more important to stop bad legislation that it is to pass good legislation.

Thank you,  
Richard Wisner