

Submitter: Laura Anderson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I support this bill. As the founder of Local Ocean Seafoods in Newport, I built a successful seafood business focused on supporting our wild and sustainable fisheries. I have long seen how finfish aquaculture operations in Pacific Northwest and worldwide have had negative consequences- namely from the externalities caused when feeds, antibiotics, colorants and fungicides leach out of net pens and into the open ocean. Also, when nets fail, and animals escape to the wild they can transfer disease and compete for wild habitat with native species. We have seen this time and time again in Washington State, South America, Norway, Scotland and New Zealand. Which is why so many other states have strictly limited how aquaculture can be conducted. Lets not let Oregon be the last place where these detrimental activities can take place. I have also seen how aquaculture can be done right. By using closed containment and recirculating seawater systems on land, the risks of water pollution and escapes can be greatly mitigated. Oregon should adopt a strong policy toward aquaculture, and this bill provides for responsible business development in the state.