

Submitter: John Dentler
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I urge the Committee not to report HB 2965 to the the full Oregon House. This bill is not based on science but rather is based on falsehoods and supposition. I strongly oppose this unnecessary legislation. Multiple peer-reviewed studies, including a NOAA-led Pacific Northwest study, have demonstrated that well-regulated aquaculture can and has been done safely with minimal environmental impact. Claims of spreading pathogens are patently false and a recent study produced by Oregon State University, Washington State University, U.C. Davis, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, and other preeminent fish pathologists have shown such claims to be false. See Pathogens from Salmon Aquaculture in Relation to Conservation of Wild Pacific Salmon in Canada: An Alternative Perspective (Preprints.org) Feb 5. 2025. Other progressive seafood-producing nations, including Iceland and New Zealand, have embraced aquaculture as a sustainable solution to the growing need for healthy seafood. Even Alaska's governor has recently voiced support for aquaculture as a way to strengthen the seafood industry. Oregon should be making decisions based on science, not misinformation or activist pressure. When folks refused to believe in Global Warming environmental activists urged decisionmakers to listen to the scientists and read the science. If you do so you will have no other choice but to kill this bill. I urge you to oppose HB 2965 and instead focus on responsible, science-driven policy.