

February 27, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97301

Committee,

On behalf of the California Aquaculture Association (CAA)<sup>i</sup>, I am writing to ask that you oppose HB 2965.

HB 2965 should not move forward, as banning finfish aquaculture in Oregon before it even exists is an extreme and unnecessary step that disregards scientific research and economic potential. Other regions have successfully implemented well-regulated, sustainable aquaculture that enhances food security, job creation, and wild fisheries, and Oregon should not adopt an anti-business, anti-innovation stance that stifles future growth.

The bill is not grounded in science, as multiple peer-reviewed studies, including a NOAA-led Pacific Northwest study, confirm that well-managed aquaculture can be conducted safely with minimal environmental impact. Many progressive seafood-producing nations, such as Iceland and New Zealand, support aquaculture as a sustainable solution, and even Alaska's governor has endorsed its role in strengthening the seafood industry. Instead of relying on misinformation or activist pressure, Oregon should base its decisions on scientific evidence.

Furthermore, responsible aquaculture is essential to easing pressure on wild fish stocks while providing a sustainable, climate-friendly seafood source. Organizations like The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and NOAA recognize aquaculture's role in environmental sustainability, and without it, Oregon will remain dependent on imported seafood from countries with weaker environmental standards, increasing carbon emissions and harming global fish populations.

For these reasons, HB 2965 should be opposed in favor of a responsible, science-driven approach to aquaculture policy.

Sincerely,



Tony Vaught  
President, California Aquaculture Association

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<sup>i</sup> The California Aquaculture Association (CAA) is a producer-supported association representing finfish, shellfish, and algae growers and seafood related businesses throughout California since 1983. The CAA promotes commercial production of plants and animals in aquatic systems to satisfy the needs of consumers for wholesome products that are produced by sustainable means conserving California's land and water resources.