

Submitter: Ben Fineman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

My name is Ben Fineman and I am writing in strong support of HB2965, which seeks to ban industrial aquaculture in Oregon. As someone deeply committed to ethical and sustainable food systems, I believe this legislation is essential to protecting our environment, public health, and local economies.

Industrial aquaculture poses serious risks to Oregon's coastal ecosystems. Open-net fish farms introduce waste, chemicals, and parasites into our waterways, threatening wild fish populations and degrading water quality. These operations also heighten the risk of farmed fish escaping, which can disrupt native species and ecosystems. As Oregon works to preserve its rich biodiversity and thriving fisheries, we must prevent the irreversible damage caused by industrial fish farming.

Furthermore, industrial aquaculture undermines Oregon's small-scale fishing communities. By flooding the market with lower-quality farmed fish, these operations threaten the livelihoods of local fishers who rely on sustainable harvesting practices. Oregon has long been a leader in responsible resource management, and this bill ensures that we continue prioritizing long-term sustainability over short-term profits.

I urge you to support this crucial legislation to protect Oregon's waters, wildlife, and coastal communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.