

Submitter: Monica Tomosy

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

I urge you to SUPPORT HB 2965-5. Feces, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals get directly discharged into the estuaries and marine water where net pens and cages of confined farmed fish exist. One industrial farm of several hundred thousand fish produces around one million pounds of waste annually. These facilities not only pollute surrounding waters but can spread disease from the farmed to the wild fish. Net pen aquaculture of fin fish causes environmental and socioeconomic harms. In recent years, large-scale fish escapes have happened. These events cause negative impacts to the immediate ecosystems, and beyond. The release of millions of invasive farmed fish into the wild imposes biological risks to aquatic communities. This bill advocates for minimal protections for our environment. The rest of the Pacific States established strict regulations on net pens; Oregon must not be the outlier when we share the same waters.

VOTE YES.