

Submitter: Claire Gates

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

Please support HB 2965-5. As an Oregonian, it's important to me that we protect Oregon's coastal waters from the harms of industrial aquaculture. It has been scientifically proven that net pen aquaculture of finfish causes environmental and socioeconomic harms, and we want Oregon to prevent an influx of such operations now that they are banned or seriously restricted on the rest of the West Coast. A typical 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 farmed to wild fish.

This bill only seeks to encourage smart aquaculture in our state. It does not aim to prevent industry expansion. Instead, it advocates for minimal protections for our environment.

Thank you. Please protect our environment as much as you can. If you don't, at some point, there will be no going back.