



Feb. 25, 2025

Testimony Opposing HB 2965

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and members of the committee:

Food Northwest is the trade association representing food companies in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Over 2,000 food companies in Oregon provide over 120,000 direct jobs, and are present in all 36 counties making them community pillars for both cities and rural areas. Food companies rely on the availability of great raw products raised or grown by Oregon's farmers and ranchers. Seafood processing is an essential part of the food-making ecosystem in our state and region.

90% of U.S. seafood is imported. Oregon could lead in reducing this reliance on imports. Peer-reviewed research, including a multi-year Pacific Northwest NOAA [study](#) released in 2022, finds that well-regulated modern aquaculture implemented with best practices provides a low-carbon and an environmentally friendly means of producing fish protein locally. The study found no adverse impact on salmon, orcas, or other native or endangered fish and no harm to their Puget Sound habitat.

None of the submitted testimony on the record as of Feb. 26, 2025 cites any scientific studies or other science-backed reason this bill is needed or appropriate.

Beyond academic research, Iceland and New Zealand are modeling good practices and results consistent with these studies as they grow their domestic aquaculture capabilities. We should not preclude Oregon from exploring aquaculture as an environmental, food security, and economic opportunity.

We believe HB 2965 is effectively an unnecessary ban on a whole category of environmentally friendly fish production. Modern responsible aquaculture could bolster local food production and reduce fishing pressure on wild fish stocks. Oregon needs more avenues to meet growing demand for food, not fewer. Please do not move HB 2695 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Dillon".

Dave Dillon, President