

Submitter: Kay Johnson Smith

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the Texas Aquaculture Association and our farmer members who are involved directly in raising redfish, catfish, tilapia, shrimp, oysters, crawfish and more, I strongly encourage you to vote NO on Oregon's HB2965.

Consumption of seafood continues to grow in the U.S., and it is a healthy, affordable food option providing protein, healthy fats, vitamins and minerals. Unfortunately, the U.S. imports more seafood from other countries than we produce domestically. To meet this growing consumer demand, we believe states should seek opportunities to produce more seafood in the U.S. – not ban aquaculture altogether before it even starts or make it too cost prohibitive for individuals and businesses to grow this sector of agriculture.

Responsible aquaculture supports the sustainability of wild fisheries while providing consumers with additional sources of safe, wholesome seafood options. The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and NOAA all recognize that aquaculture is essential to reducing pressure on wild fish stocks while providing a stable, climate-friendly source of seafood.

Without local aquaculture, the U.S. will continue to rely on imported seafood from countries with weaker environmental standards and increasing carbon emissions while putting more pressure on wild fish stocks globally. Please vote NO on HB 2965. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kay Johnson Smith
Texas Aquaculture Association