

Submitter: Zuriel van Belle

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

Co-chairs Helm and Owens, and members of this Committee,

Please support HB 2965-5. HB 2965-5 will help protect Oregon's ocean and estuarine waters by preventing them from being degraded by industrial aquaculture. Net pen aquaculture is known to be environmentally harmful and these practices are banned or seriously restricted on the rest of the West Coast. According to Food & Water Watch, just one industrial net pen facility (which confines several hundred thousand fish) can discharge over one million pounds of waste a year—this not only includes fish feces but pharmaceuticals and other chemicals. This is a significant threat to Oregon's aquatic ecosystems and wild fish populations.

As a child, it was a very special treat to make the long drive from my home in Eastern Oregon to the Oregon Coast. My eyes were glued to the window from the Blue Mountains to the ocean and I was filled with excitement—thrilled to visit the cold, clean beaches, to explore the rocky cliffs, and to feel the strong ocean winds. Oregon's coastal and aquatic ecosystems are a treasure—we must protect them, not exploit them. Support HB 2965-5 to help ensure that future generations of people, animals, and plants can make a healthy living on Oregon's coasts.

Thank you for your time.