

Submitter: Karen Sjogren
On Behalf Of: Myself
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

As an individual who spent two decades in the commercial fishing industry and also has worked to conserve endangered species such as salmon, I heartily endorse this bill. HB 2965-5 prohibits net pen industrial aquaculture in marine and estuarine waters of the state of Oregon. There are many problems with this level of aquaculture. One is the water quality impact of the fecal material from thousands of fish in a confined area. A second is the withdrawal of this quite large area for use by other species of marine life. A third is the risk of these fish escaping and negatively impacting the genetic makeup of native wild fish. The last is the cruelty of having these fish live unnatural and crowded lives, akin to confined feed lot operations on land. Please pass this bill so we can safeguard our nearshore waters and avoid learning the hard way that these types of operations are not good for Oregon.