

Submitter: Roy Wessbecher

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 our coastal waters from the harms of industrial aquaculture. - I swim in the ocean regularly.

Since net pens are placed directly in the water, fish feed, feces, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals are released directly into the surrounding waters. 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. HB 2965-5 is critical for preventing disease outbreaks, environmental pollution, and the spread of invasive species.

The goal is to preserve native ecosystems for coastal wildlife, recreation (including open water swimming), tourism, and commercial-fishing communities.

Thank you.