

Submitter: Becky Orf
On Behalf Of: COIN Climate Energy Environment Team
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

Co-Chairs Representative Helm and Representative Owens, Co-Chair Representative McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water: COIN is made up of Indivisible groups across Oregon and has its own Climate, Energy, and Environment (CEE) Team. COIN's CEE Team collaborates with organizations, agencies, and groups across the Pacific Northwest to advocate, in part, for laws and programs that promote and protect our natural world and resources. COIN's CEE Team supports HB 2965-5. Net pen aquaculture of finfish causes environmental and socioeconomic harms. Oregon must prevent an influx of such operations now that they are banned or seriously restricted on the rest of the West Coast. Net pens or cages confine farmed fish directly in marine or estuarine waters, allowing for fish feed, feces, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals to be discharged into these waters. Massive fish escapes have occurred repeatedly, wreaking havoc on ecosystems and releasing millions of invasive farmed fish into the wild over the past few years. 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. This bill only seeks to encourage smart aquaculture in our state. It does not aim to prevent industry expansion. Instead, it advocates for minimal protections for our environment. Please pass 2965--5 and protect Oregon's waters.