



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on HB 2965
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

February 27, 2025

Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2965 with the proposed -5 amendments.

HB 2965-5 would prohibit "rais[ing] finfish in a marine or estuarine body of water in this state in nets, cages or other similar containers." (-5 Amendments, Section 3.)

Humane Voters Oregon supports HB 2965-5 because raising farmed fish in "net pens" and similar structures requires the farmed fish to live in extreme confinement and harms the surrounding marine and estuarine environment and the wild animals that live there. Net pens have free interchange with waters of the surrounding aquatic environment, which leads to pollution from farmed-fish waste and chemicals used in fish-farming, as well as the spread of disease from farmed fish to wild fish. Net pens and similar containers also fail, leading to escape of farmed fish, which harms wild fish populations through competition for food, disease, interbreeding and predation.

For the above reasons, Oregon should join other West Coast states in regulating fish farming with net pens in marine and estuarine waters.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director