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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2965

By banning industrial aquaculture, Oregon can protect its valuable marine ecosystems, support sustainable fisheries and coastal communities, and promote a more ethical and sustainable food system.

The negative Impacts of industrial aquaculture include:

- Pollution: Industrial aquaculture operations release significant amounts of waste, including fish feces, uneaten feed, and chemicals, into surrounding waters. This pollution can cause: Algal blooms leading to oxygen depletion and harming marine life, habitat damage caused by degrading water quality and harming sensitive ecosystems, and disease outbreaks, spreading diseases to wild fish populations.
 - Escaped Fish: Farmed fish can escape from their enclosures and interbreed with wild populations, disrupting the genetic integrity of native species and potentially harming biodiversity.
 - Antibiotic Use: Industrial aquaculture often relies on antibiotics to control disease outbreaks, contributing to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, which poses a threat to human and animal health.
- Economic Impacts:
- Competition with Wild Fisheries: Industrial aquaculture can compete with and undermine local, sustainable wild fisheries, impacting the livelihoods of fishermen and coastal communities.
 - Disease Risks: Disease outbreaks in aquaculture operations can devastate wild fish populations, harming the fishing industry and tourism.
 - Hidden Costs: The environmental costs of industrial aquaculture, such as pollution cleanup and habitat restoration, are often borne by taxpayers, creating a hidden economic burden.
 - Food Security: Industrial aquaculture can divert resources away from local, sustainable food systems and contribute to food insecurity in coastal communities.
 - Animal Welfare: Fish raised in industrial aquaculture operations often suffer from overcrowding, stress, and disease, raising ethical concerns about animal welfare.

Alternatives to industrial aquaculture include:

- Sustainable Aquaculture: Support the development of sustainable aquaculture practices that minimize environmental impact and prioritize animal welfare.
- Wild Fisheries Management: Invest in responsible management of wild fisheries to ensure their long-term sustainability.
- Plant-Based Seafood: Encourage the development and consumption of plant-based seafood alternatives to reduce reliance on industrial aquaculture.

Thank you for your consideration.