

Joy Brewer

From: Matt Lubaway <mattman353@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 8:16 AM
To: Joy Brewer; Rep. Andrea LaFontaine; Rep. Ken Goike; Rep. Lisa Lyons; Rep. Bruce Rendon; Rep. Ed McBroom; Rep. Julie Plawecki (District 11); Rep. Charles Smiley; Rep. John Kivela (District 109)
Cc: Rep. Jim Tedder (District 43)
Subject: Aquaculture Bill Hearing
Importance: High

AQUACULTURE IN MICHIGAN

Sport fishermen and fisherwomen are many of the most effective stewards of Michigan's water resources both individually and collectively through federal Sport-Fishing Excise Tax on all tackle and Michigan License Fees.

It is reported that Aquaculture has grown around the world in recent decades and now meets nearly half the world's seafood demand. Demand for fish will continue to grow; generating the interest in increased farming in our vast fresh water resources (Great Lakes, inland lakes, and rivers) in Michigan.

Observations of previous Aquaculture systems demonstrate the significant impact which occurred to the surrounding natural fish habitats and water resources. At Metro-West Steelheaders believe that, some systems are more hazardous than others and pass waste directly into the environment without treatment and pose threat from escaping fish stock. Flow-through pond / lake farms and open lake net pen farms are the worst.

In the past, some aquaculture systems in Michigan have already passed disease to wild stocks, caused pollution to public waterways and resulted in release of domestic & transgenic stocks into natural waters. (Most notoriously, Asian Carp in other states.) Those release have had devastating effects on our waterways, habitat, and drinking water. Such pollution is known to promote formation harmful algal blooms. Additionally, release of domestic or transgenic fish into the wild results in cross breeding and negative genetic changes to wild fish populations.

We realize Aquaculture may lead to economic growth and job creation in Michigan, as a member of Metro -West Steelheaders, I urge Michigan legislature and governmental agencies to protect Michigan's water resources and associated ecosystem from pollution, invasive species and genetic manipulation of wild stocks. Aquaculture in Michigan should lead the path by pressing for zero impact systems.

We ask you to support House Bill 5255 "Michigan aquaculture development act" which bans net pen aquaculture in the Michigan Great Lakes and connecting waters, up to the first dam (as defined by the bill). We do not feel this bill address all issues of , such as flow through aquaculture, which we will continue press for through future legislation.

Sincerely,

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"The secret of success is to make your vocation your vacation." Mark Twain

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