

# Aaron Choate

Dear Department of Ecology:

As a sometime resident of Washington State and a concerned citizen of salmon nation and the Pacific Northwest, we strongly oppose open pen fish farming in our wild waters. These pens have been shown to pollute waterways, concentrate pests such as sea lice, and negatively impact wild fish and the marine ecosystem as a whole. In a world where we need MORE support for wild and endangered fish, which has detrimental effects up and down the food chain, including in our endangered southern resident orcas, holding fish in pens simply does not make sense. Such pens spread disease, fish escape, and they are the equivalent of underwater CAFOs — immoral for the sake of profit without concern for their negative environmental and social impacts.

For future generations, for your children and grandchildren, for yourselves, please do not continue to permit or allow open pen fish farming.

For the wild, and for us,

-Aaron, Kirsten, Sierra, and Anton Choate-  
Salmon Nation residents  
Formerly of Ravenna and the U District, Seattle,  
Now Portland Oregon