

Oregon Legislature
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: \$40 Million Lottery Bond Allocation for Coos Bay Federal Navigation Channel

Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey, and Members of the Committee;

The Oregon Laborers are in strong support of ensuring continued investment in maintaining and deepening/widening the Federal Navigation Channel in Coos Bay, Oregon. As we have seen continued loss of economic opportunities in the area, we believe we must do everything we can to incentivize economic growth where possible.

The deepening/widening of the channel through the ongoing dredging will allow further maritime access to the port, and increase import/export capabilities. While the Laborers have long seen a need to continue investing in economic opportunities on the South Coast, recent business closures such as Georgia Pacific have brought a renewed sense of urgency to investing the planned \$40 million lottery bond allocation.

The jobs created by the dredging itself, combined with the jobs that accompany the development of industry in the area and the import export potential make the lottery bond allocation absolutely critical to the south coast. In order to advance the family wage job opportunities in the region, we must help boost the existing businesses and economic opportunities. We strongly urge the allocation \$40 million & the reallocation of \$15 million.

Thank you for your support, and the time you have put into this process.