

From the desk of Representative Salinas

*Andrea Salinas*

Audubon Society of Portland • Columbia Riverkeeper • Oregon Environmental Council •  
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## Please vote NO on HB 2436B

Our collective organizations and our thousands of members urge you to vote NO on HB 2436B (which includes the -10 amendments). HB 2436 (with -10 amendments) raises serious concerns for wetlands, water quality, fish and wildlife, and other environmental values in the state.

HB 2436B (with -10 amendments) creates a loophole for the Department of State Lands (DSL) to ignore environmental criteria when issuing removal fill permits, which puts water quality, fish and wildlife and other environmental values across the state at risk. Further, the -10 amendments were not made public until the last days of session, and no hearing or other opportunity for public input on the significant changes to the Department's removal fill process was offered. Specific concerns include:

- 1. HB 2436B grants DSL an effective loophole to ignore state removal-fill criteria meant to safeguard Oregon's environment:** Section 4(3)(b) grants DSL discretion to ignore current criteria required by the state's removal-fill law when evaluating removal-fill permit applications (see Section 4(3)(a) of bill for criteria). This means DSL can effectively ignore the findings of the required analysis under current state law regarding (1) whether the project is consistent with the protection, conservation and best use of the water resources of the state, and (2) would not unreasonably interfere with the paramount policy of this state to preserve the use of its waters for navigation, fishing and public recreation (the two required determinations to issue a removal/fill permit).
- 2. HB 2436B (with -10 amendments) raises significant implications for wetlands, water quality, fish and wildlife and other environmental values:** The bill would affect DSL evaluations of all removal-fill permits across the state, posing an immediate threat to water quality and other environmental values. The proposed amendments could affect DSL determinations on all removal-fill permit applications, including but not limited to mining, commercial development, agriculture and liquefied natural gas (LNG) proposals.
- 3. Lack of public process:** The -10 amendments were added to the original bill in the very last days of session and are wholly unrelated to the underlying bill. No public hearing was held; depriving the public of any meaningful opportunity to review and comment on these amendments, which have significant implications for water quality, wetlands, fish and wildlife, and other environmental values across the state.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON HB 2436B. This bill would effectively create a loophole for DSL to ignore the many criteria they currently evaluate when making permit decisions, which undermines current safeguards for water quality, fish and wildlife, and other environmental values across the state.



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