

Submitter: Annie Pollard
On Behalf Of: Coos Bay Surfrider Chapter
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3382

Dear Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation,

I, Annie Pollard, Chair of the Coos Bay Surfrider Chapter, write this formal testimony to express our strong opposition to House Bill 3382 as it currently stands. The recent amendments do not assuage our concerns. As an organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of our coastal environment, we firmly believe that this bill sets a dangerous precedent for deregulation and poses significant risks to our communities and natural resources.

House Bill 3382 undermines the progress we have made in safeguarding our coastal areas. By relaxing regulations and oversight, it opens the door to unchecked development that threatens our delicate ecosystems and the diverse marine life they support. This bill, if passed, opens the door for projects that may jeopardize critical habitats, increase pollution, and disrupt salmon breeding habitat, endangering the long-term health and sustainability of our coastal environment.

Furthermore, House Bill 3382 has far-reaching economic and cultural implications. Our coastal communities rely on tourism, fishing, and other ocean-related industries and recreation, which thrive due to the pristine natural beauty and unique ecological characteristics of our estuaries. Compromising these assets must be done with care, full transparency, mitigation, and stakeholder input, as outlined in the Coos Estuary Management Plan.

We urge you, as members of this esteemed committee, to consider the potential consequences of House Bill 3382 on both the environment and the livelihoods of coastal residents. This bill not only undermines existing protections but also sets a precedent for further deregulation that could have far-reaching and irreversible impacts on our communities and natural resources.

In conclusion, the Coos Bay Surfrider Chapter respectfully requests that you oppose House Bill 3382. We implore you to prioritize the preservation of our coastal ecosystems and the hard-won public process that determines how our estuaries are managed. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your commitment to preserving our coastal resources and our democratic process.

Sincerely,
Annie Pollard, Chair, Coos Bay Surfrider Chapter