

Submitter: Laurel Hanley
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3382

OREGONIANS ARE PROUD OF OUR 50-YEAR OLD LAND USE PLANNING SYSTEM LAW, AS WELL AS OREGON'S STATEWIDE LAND USE PLANNING GOALS. THESE LAWS WERE INTENDED TO CONTROL THE TYPE AND LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT, AND HAVE SERVED US WELL.

HB 3382, EVEN WITH AMENDMENTS, IS A REQUEST BY NORTH POINT DEVELOPMENT, A PRIVATE BUSINESS, TO IGNORE AND CIRCUMVENT THOSE LAWS AND GOALS IN ORDER TO BUILD A CONTAINER PLANT TERMINAL, WHICH WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ALTER AND DAMAGE THE COOS BAY ESTUARY, IN OPPOSITION TO GOAL #16 REGARDING ESTUARIES.

NO PRIVATE, SPECIAL INTEREST SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SEEK AN EXCEPTION FROM THE OREGON LEGISLATURE. GRANTING THIS WOULD BE A VERY DANGEROUS PRECEDENT TO SET, AND WOULD LIKELY OPEN THE FLOODGATES FOR OTHER COMPANIES ALSO WISHING NOT TO FOLLOW OREGON'S LAND USE LAWS AND GOALS.

COOS BAY ITSELF IS THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE AREA, AND SUPPORTS NUMEROUS SPECIES, INCLUDING HUMANS AND THEIR BUSINESSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE BAY. ESTUARIES ARE AMONG THE MOST PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENTS ON EARTH, THE HOME OF NUMEROUS FISH, WILDLIFE, OTHER ANIMALS AND LIFE FORMS. ESTUARIES PERFORM CRUCIAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, FILTERING TOXINS FROM WATER AND HELPING PREVENT FLOODING.

AS A CERTIFIED OREGON MASTER NATURALIST FOR THE COAST ECO-REGION, I HAVE VOLUNTEERED NUMEROUS HOURS IN THE COOS BAY AREA. IT IS MY FAVORITE PART OF THE COAST.

HOWEVER, ESTUARIES OCCUR IN ALL AREAS OF THE OREGON COAST AND THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT. THE REAL ISSUE HERE IS TO HONOR OUR EXISTING LAND USE LAWS AND GOALS, AND DENY THE REQUEST BY NORTH POINT DEVELOPMENT TO NOT FOLLOW THE RULES AND PROCEDURES THAT EVERYONE ELSE HAS TO COMPLY WITH. I IMPLORE YOU TO INSIST OUR LAWS BE FOLLOWED BY EVERYONE.

THANK YOU SINCERELY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. LAUREL