



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

June 16, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3382-3, Relating to land use exception to Goal 16 under certain conditions

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the more than 74,000 members and supporters of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club, we are writing in opposition to HB 3382-3. We oppose this bill because it bypasses sound land use planning at the Oregon coast. It had been amended to somewhat limit the damage it would do, but it will still lead to massive dredging in ports like Coos Bay. It will allow changing the land use planning system at the behest of special interests.

HB 3382-3 would remove an existing requirement that developers show a public benefit and an impact analysis for new large scale channel modification or dredging in the Coos Bay estuary. This is to facilitate a specific project. Eroding long-standing land use laws for the sake of special interests is a bad precedent. It will enable future developers to use the legislative process to push harmful projects forward without environmental review. This goes against Oregon's long and sound land use planning record.

The impact HB 3382-3 will have on estuaries is also concerning. Estuaries are often called the "nurseries of the sea" because numerous animal species rely on them. We rely on estuaries for a source for food, as well as for recreation and jobs. Estuaries also filter out sediments and pollutants from rivers and streams before they flow into the ocean, providing cleaner waters for humans and marine life. All of this will be jeopardized if the port of Coos Bay is allowed to operate without regulations and accountability.

We urge your opposition to HB 3382-3.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Higbee
Legislative Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

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