

Bob Morrow

March 12, 2023

Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposed to HB3382

Dear Committee Members,

Any bill that authorizes waterfront construction “without demonstrating compliance with state or local land use law” should not make it out of committee. HB3382 is feckless and should not advance.

Providing Carte Blanche - do what you want - to our environment - to foreign shipping line executives is a recipe for disaster. They will not care because HB3382 says they will not have to.

There is great noise about building a container terminal on the North Spit of Coos Bay; That it will fill a void between Oakland and Seattle while discounting Portland as to far inland. Visions of “over one million forty-foot containers annually” sounds great. But a channel that is dredged to 30 feet will only allow for a container ship carrying 500 forty-foot containers (That is 2,000 risky transits of the treacherous Coos Bay Bar annually).

If a million containers do arrive in Coos Bay, where are they going to go? Will it really be more cost effective to a shipper than travelling into Long Beach or New Jersey or Tacoma with a Panamax? I would love to see how that is going to pencil out.

Will the rail line controlled by the port moving containers over the coastal range be free to avoid state and local land use laws (Summary SECTION 2. (1)(b)(A)) along the rail line? Can larger turning basins be carved out of the wetlands at Bunker Hill?

That HB3382 applies to the “ports of Astoria, Coos Bay, Newport, Portland and St. Helens” speaks to a broader unidentified purpose to this bill. But defeats the rationale of Portland’s container terminal being too far inland between Oakland and Seattle.

Oregon has a long history of protecting its coastline and waterways which makes our state unique and beloved by its residents. It is local and state land use laws that are in place for just this reason.

If there is a waterfront project that can *only* be accomplished with the passage of HB3382... then it is clearly *not* a good project. Go back to the drawing board and return once your project conforms to the existing land use laws and constraints of our state and our community. It is what Oregonians deserve.

For these and many other reasons I strongly oppose HB3382.

Sincerely,

Bob Morrow