



Date: 14 March 2023

To: Oregon Legislative Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Alice Carlson, President, Coos County League of Women Voters.

Subject: TESTIMONY on HB 3382 - OPPOSITION

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Gorsek and Rep. McLain and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation:

The members of the League of Women Voters of Coos County stand in strong opposition to HB 3882 and request it not be moved forward. This proposed legislation would exempt selected ports from the policies of comprehensive coastal zone management and the principles and foundations of land use planning articulated in Oregon's 19 Statewide Goals for 50 years.

The proposers appear unaware or in disregard of the key role of estuaries in supporting life processes as the interface between freshwater and the ocean. Oregon has been a pioneer in comprehensive land management and our Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) plays a key role in assisting communities throughout the state to achieve all land use goals. Statewide Goal #16 protects the long-term values, diversity, and benefits of estuaries and associated wetlands.

Estuarine environments are among the most productive on earth, creating more organic matter than any comparably sized forest or grassland. They provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife populations and are a conduit and transformer of energy moving from the watersheds to the ocean. Estuaries are increasingly critical in achieving resilience to climate change and coastal hazards and protecting water quality.

The LWV of Oregon has strong positions regarding coastal resources in its Coastal and Nearshore Oregon documents: [54a310_5de7d864b167495f8ef37b49821125a2.pdf \(lwvor.org\)](#); and in its water in Oregon Study: [LWV Water Quality Report Part 2 \(lwvor.org\)](#).

The League of Women Voters of Coos County is currently engaged in an active process to update our local comprehensive study of the Port of Coos Bay. <https://my.lwv.org/oregon/coos-county/international-port-coos-bay>

Our studies of the Port began in the 1960s and have been updated at intervals. In the past decades, the Port has proposed several projects related to shipping and transportation that are and have been of high concern as they would directly affect the water quality and functions of the estuary. We have repeatedly highlighted our concerns regarding statewide planning goals, coastal resources, dredging and the effects on fish, shellfish and wildlife critical habitat, conflicts with recreational fishing and boating, stability of the slopes and lack of adequate mitigation.

The proposed legislation would allow projects proposed by a select few appointed Port Authorities to override all the other voices and values of human and natural activities that are supported in our estuaries.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice A. Carlson".

President, League of Women Voters of Coos County