

Submitter: Kathryn Ferrandino
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

The Willamette River, Columbia River, Yaquina Bay, and Coos Bay, are at risk of being irreversibly damaged if HB 3382 passes. These waterways are the lifeblood of Oregon, yet this bill would strip away critical state and local land use regulations in these delicate areas, exposing them to immeasurable dredging and heavy industrial development.

Oregonians have the privilege of living in close proximity to beautiful natural areas filled with varied species of wildlife, all of which depend on these waterways to survive. Our state's land use regulations ensure that nature can thrive alongside side us allowing us to enjoy its beauty, the health benefits of clean air and water, and the advantages of living in a more balanced ecosystem.

The Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) identified serious shortcomings in the plan for dredging the Coos Bay navigation channel. These concerns must be addressed so that they meet established regulations. We must not allow ports to have free rein to damage our state's submerged and submersible lands. Any proposed development project must demonstrate compliance with the established rules and procedures and be in the best interest of all Oregonians.

In an atmosphere of global over-industrialization and loss of natural spaces, we have a sacred responsibility to ensure that Oregon's ecosystems remain protected and preserved for future generations.