

Submitter: Jeff Hildreth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3382

HB3382 would allow damage to estuaries which are critical coastal ecosystems, creating vital links between land and sea. They nurture a variety of species of interest to people such as salmon, Dungeness crab, herring, oysters, clams, and migratory waterfowl. Intact estuarine systems can enhance water quality, provide buffering from storms, and sequester carbon. They provide recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists. Our land use laws don't prevent all development, but they do require careful consideration before actions are allowed which might damage these public resources. It would be reckless to remove the stop signs that ensure caution and allow ports to barrel ahead with development schemes.

Estuaries are nurseries for many species of animals that local economies depend on. They provide a huge level of carbon sequestering. To pass a law that would stop local land use policies is short sighted and hazardous to local communities and the environment.

We oppose HB3382.