



March 15, 2023

The Conservation Angler Opposes HB 3382 allowing ports to construct and maintain deep draft navigation channels and docking/berthing facilities without state or local land use law compliance.

Dear Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Committee,

The Conservation Angler (TCA) is an Oregon nonprofit corporation whose mission is to protect wild fish and wild rivers. TCA urges a NO vote on this adversely impactful special interest bill.

Special interest bills seeking to escape the requirements of Oregon's land use laws and other regulatory requirements meant to protect public resources often sacrifice the common good and violate the public trust meant to protect present and future generations.

Oregon's land use laws work because they implement a system of local planning, deliberate decision-making, and restraint against too much development. HB 3382 asks for a breathtakingly large exemption, for five deep-draft ports to be exempted from all land use laws for both dredging navigation channels and building docking/berthing facilities.

It would also place Oregon's major estuaries in the firing line for rampant development – the exact opposite of the restraint imposed by the land use framework. The estuary management plans for Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay – two of the ports named in this bill – are currently being updated in many ways to adjust the zoning and regulatory structure of the bay in order to maximize their resilience for the future.

At a time when the federal and state governments are preparing Oregon's coastal estuaries and bays to be resilient to weather the increasingly impactful effects of climate change, exempting five specific Ports from state regulations is a huge step in the wrong direction to prepare Oregon to battle climate change.

It is likely that this bill nullifies or violates Oregon's Climate Change Policy adopted during the previous Governor's tenure – and under which, state agencies are taking steps every day to meet their obligations to protect Oregon's coastal environments.

This special interest bill appears crafted to ease the way for very large, but little scrutinized, mega projects in five specific bays – while it wrecks the state's coastal land use authority in the process. Everybody in the state is regulated under the land use laws. Wholesale attempts like this to exempt parties and projects from statewide law and regulations create risks to estuaries across Oregon that support wild salmon and steelhead and a host of birds and other wildlife – the estuaries are the meeting place where marine-derived nutrients enter Oregon's freshwater rivers systems – annually renewing valuable biodiversity into Oregon's many watersheds.

Oregon's estuaries deserve more protection and restoration – not further development – especially when that development would not be evaluated for their impacts under a well-understood and applicable land use regulatory scheme – one that is still working after all this time.

Please vote NO on HB 3382.

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