

Testimony in Opposition of HB 3382

Ron Schaaf
9687 Highway 66
Ashland, Oregon 97520

March 16, 2023

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am opposed to House Bill 3382.

Having read the bill and listened to testimony as well as noticing President Biden's recent approval of the Willow oil drilling project on the north slope of Alaska, I can't help but think that the flurry of activity around this bill, to maximize the channel depth of Oregon's coveted west coast ports, are related.

Democrats will be quiet because Bidens' deep water wind initiatives and funding will be based out of Coos Bay. Yes, the wind project, if built, will have a positive effect on the economy and fossil fuel emissions reduction for Oregon and the Nation as a whole. My instincts tell me, this channel deepening would allow for export fossil fuel pipelines to access foreign markets. "If you build it, they will come." The recent acquisition of the Ruby Pipeline by the Blackstone Group in January 2023, is foretelling. Fossil fuel products include oil exports, natural gas exports as LNG, ethane, propane, butane, "renewable" diesel (which ranges from 5% to 100% mix of plant-based and fossil-based diesel fuel) as well as others. The build out for fossil fuel export could also include imports (palm oil)—with both potentially negating any climate benefits.

The deepening of the channel, if it is driven by the Biden initiative for wind, should be deepened only to the depth needed for that project. Specifically, regarding the Container project, it will be a boondoggle without ongoing Federal and state subsidies. (Read: fish farming on the Oregon coast in the 1990s). If the subsidies dry up, the container port dries up.

Without the Port of Coos Bay entering into long term contracts, visible to the public ahead of approval, it is impossible to know the positive or the negative impacts to the region. Please do not close the comment period of this bill and do not approve this bill as written. Public comment on Oregon proposed projects in their entirety IS IMPERATIVE to making good decisions in Oregon. This is why we have land use laws. Pre-empting that process with this bill is NOT the Tom McCall way nor is it the Oregon Way.