

May 16, 2023

The Honorable Lew Frederick, Senator
The Honorable Susan McLain, Representative
Joint Committee on Transportation
State of Oregon
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email

Re: HB 3382 – Oppose

Dear Senator Frederick, Representative McLain and Members of the Committee:

HB 3382 is absurd. The fact that it was even introduced demonstrates irresponsible governance by the sponsors and supporting legislators. This legislation is designed to give Ports the ability to circumvent the laws and rules of the State and do whatever the hell they want with no accountability. Allowing this legislation to proceed is not only irrational, it verges on insane. Creating a precedent wherein governmental entities are allowed to evade the laws put in place to protect the citizen and the environment, because it knows it cannot meet those laws is simply an appalling and very dangerous idea.

We all know what this legislation is about; it is about the Port of Coos Bay trying to work around the law so it can expand its channel to accommodate construction of a container facility that makes no rational sense. The Port knows it cannot meet the legal requirements to construct such a facility – clearly demonstrated with the failed Jordan Cove project. The State of Oregon does not have the infrastructure in place to move the volume of containers they are proposing with a single rail line, and a two-lane road for all north/south transport and a two-lane road for the bulk of east/west transport. Add to this the fact that much of that transport is often closed because of weather or traffic incidents.

And here we go again with the job creation prediction . . . two thousand jobs? It is very unlikely that the Coos Bay/North Bend area has the available work force and secondly, if a worker influx is required there is insufficient housing available. Again, makes no sense.

Please do not pass this bill from committee – it is illogical and irresponsible.

Sincerely,

Stacey McLaughlin
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Myrtle Creek, OR 97457