

Submitter: Jill PUNCHES
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

Thank you for your work during this legislative session. I am writing to express my opposition to the Port Dredging Exemption Bill, HB 3382. HB 3382 enables major deepwater ports in Oregon to bypass essential land use and environmental regulations for the sake of fast-tracking extensive dredging and channel modification. This bill sets a dangerous precedent, jeopardizing the health of some of the most ecologically important and sensitive waterways in our state. It would also have a negative impact on local coastal economies including oyster aquaculture, crabbing, and fishing. Please vote no on HB 3382.

I am someone who worked for the Port of Portland on the airfield as an Airfield Ops Supervisor in the 1990s. I was trained to trap Wildlife and disperse birds with a shotgun to avoid the conflict between planes and especially birds. I am currently a bird and my time at PDX helped develop my current passion for birds. For the past few years, I have had a Raptor route that runs almost 50 miles and through Port-owned property. I know it should be ideal habitat for birds that are seldom not seen, including far fewer Kestrels than I saw in the 90s and no Harriers. The southern border of the Columbia River, the 2nd largest river in North America, should be more of an important resting place for migrants flying north. Most port properties are built adjacent to wetlands where land is traditionally cheap and developers remove critical habitat for populations of birds and other animals that have no voice. Oversight is crucial and the time to address climate change for the planet is now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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