

I have made my home on the shores of Coos Bay for over 40 years. During that time I have come to value what I see as a very Oregon way to make decisions about where I live. The ability to have a public discourse with elected officials about things that affect my community is a remarkable thing. People can get together to discuss issues and come to compromise.

This bill is the antithesis to that vision.

In the case of Coos Bay this bill gives just five governor appointed port commission members and the staff of the port with the right to make decisions about what is best for my community, and what should happen in the Coos estuary. It excludes the elected members of the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend and the Coos county commissioners plus the 40,000 people who are taxed by the Port.

This is clearly a special interest bill that was hastily crafted behind closed doors. No one on the Coos Bay and North Bend City councils knew about this bill until local citizens told them at recent council meetings. The hastily prepared dash 3 amendments are no better. The amendment is seriously flawed. It will prevent the public from having any input on applications to dredge the estuary. These amendments mean that there is no way to deny any applicant's request to dredge Coos Bay.

My representative, Boomer Wright, recently wrote a letter to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council Chair regarding HB3382. In it he said, "It is important to me that solutions be formed through a collaborative process for the best possible outcome for the resource and the community that depends on it."

A collaborative process should be how we should do things to make decisions about important economic and environmental issues in Oregon. This bill does not meet that standard.

I urge the committee to vote no on HB 3382.