

Submitter: L S  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure: HB3382

Dear members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

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.

Passing this bill would set a dangerous precedent that would allow corporate interests to bypass Oregon's environmental protection laws.

? Oregon's estuaries support tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl

? Estuaries are nurseries for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species, including our iconic salmon. Eel grass that would be destroyed is essential habitat for many species and functions to improve water quality to support ocean health.

? The Oregon Coast's ability to withstand the impacts of climate change is largely dependent upon maintaining healthy ecosystems like estuaries.

? HB 3382 is also at odds with Oregon's Climate Goals by removing critical protections for estuaries, which sequester carbon 10x more efficiently than forests and serve as key species nurseries.

? HB 3382 would weaken Oregon's integrated Coastal Management Program under the Coastal Zone Management Act which has served for over 50 years in balancing protection and development.

? This bill would jeopardize on-going efforts to update Oregon's estuary management plans.

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

Sincerely,