

Submitter: LINDA MILLER
On Behalf Of: MYSELF
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

For the members of this Committee considering the passage of HB 3382, my name is Linda Miller. I am a retired educator and I strongly oppose this bill. I have lived in Coos Bay for over 40 years and am deeply concerned that our State Legislature is even considering passing the 3382 bill. I live in Coos Bay and know this area for its scenic beauty, its hiking trails, fishing and crabbing, camping, and other recreational opportunities. People come here from all over the world to enjoy our beautiful bay. All of which would be lost if this bill is allowed to move forward. Many of those whose jobs depend on the fishing industry and tourism will lose their livelihoods. This bill will enable the destruction of the Coos Bay estuary – its wildlife and nursery qualities, just so private companies can widen the channel to build a new industry here that will destroy what we already have.

I am amazed that those of you who have sworn to uphold the laws of this state would even consider a bill designed to undermine Oregon land use laws and environmental protections designed to protect & enhance our coastal shores and waterways. HB 3382 would erode the essential functions that are designed to protect and set a precedent in the future for anyone not wishing to follow these well thought out land use goals to simply ask for similar exemptions. There used to be far more quality habitat in our bay before the Coastal Management plans were put in place; now you would allow what little is left to be stripped away – for what? This bill sets the scene for unregulated development across the state. What are we teaching the young people of today, are rules to be by-passed simply because we don't like them? We don't have to let the public have any input? Companies can just come in, file exemptions and do whatever they want? Is this really what we want? This is not democracy in action!

I ask myself, if these people destroy the habitat and character of this wonderful place to bring container filled ships to our town – how are they going to move them from here to the valley? I have heard they will simply put them on trains. Have you looked at the railroad between here and Eugene? Where will they store the containers waiting to be transported out? Where is the space for a train yard with multiple tracks to turn these trains around and reload? A single line up to the valley – logistics seems a problem. The railway beds will have to be rebuilt to support the weight of double-stacked containers, the wooden trestles will all have to be replaced for the same reason, the 9 tunnels between here and there will all have to be rebuilt because double-stacked containers will not fit! The existing railroad follows Hwy 126 from the coast to the valley for much of the journey and crosses roads that go to private home(s) or business about every ½ mile in some spots! Tooting their horns

each time they cross, each train will have an estimated 200 cars – how long will it take to cross each of these roads – will these homeowners ever be able to get in and out of their properties? They claim it will take 6 trains a day up and 6 back to Coos Bay to move the containers that will be brought into Coos Bay, the bay they will have already destroyed for any other purpose. This will be a 24 hour a day operation – noise is going to be another major issue!

Is it right to destroy what is already a viable and growing economy, one that brings beauty and peaceful surroundings for future generations – all so a company or companies can make a profit? Have you seen the ports in Long Beach and elsewhere? Do you really think these projects are worth the ugly environments they create? You will be sacrificing what we already have, the jobs that are already in place, to bring in something else that will certainly not have the draw that many have come to enjoy. I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 3382.