

Submitter: Bryan Duggan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3382

TO: Co-Chair McClain, Co-Chair Frederick, and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Bryan Duggan, I live at 725 S. 5th St, in Coos Bay, 97420. My family has lived in Coos County for 18 years and we have witnessed and learned the value of a healthy Coos Bay Estuary as being vital to the well being of people and aquatic wildlife populations. I moved to Coos Bay to work in the natural resource field and can attest to the importance of clean water and functioning ecosystems playing a key role in the success of the human population's ability to thrive sustainably.

I oppose HB3382-4 because the Port of Coos Bay must be held accountable to the same environmental laws that all governing agencies must follow. The Port of Coos Bay often operates as if they are above and separate to the public at large; frequently investing huge sums of money in ailing infrastructure and resource extraction strategies that run counter productive to the real economy of fish, recreation and aquatic agriculture. By creating shortcuts around environmental laws, the Port of Coos Bay would fail to be accountable for increased damages to our recovering ecology. The Coos Bay Estuary has seen significant changes over the last 150 years that included splash damming, log drives, hazardous pollutant loading and dredging. All of these activities have cumulatively reduced salmon and shellfish abundance and diversity, resources once commonly held by all citizens. Allowing the Port of Coos Bay to side step the NEPA, ESA and 401c fill/removal process guarantees further impacts to dwindling common resources, impacts that we the people and our ecology can ill afford.

If passed, HB 3382 WILL erode the essential functions of coastal estuary management plans across the state, such as the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan, which is currently being updated through the Oregon Coastal Management Program.

When there are proposals for large scale channel modifications that would impact our local economies that depend on the bay, IT IS ESSENTIAL that they go through the existing land use process. These processes give a voice to common citizens who live and depend on the local estuary for livelihoods and lifestyle. Please do not take away our voice and opportunity to participate in the public process of managing our estuary.

If passed, HB 3382-3 sets a dangerous statewide precedent for other industries to

ask for similar exemptions from Oregon's land use goals, which puts our local ecologies at risk when we are fighting to restore endangered fish populations and meet state water quality standards. Please deny the Port of Coos Bay this undemocratic precedent, send a clear message to the Port of Coos Bay that we all must do our part to restore water quality and save our salmon.