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Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Dear Chair McClain, Co Chair Frederick, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public testimony, and for the extensive work of the committee to find solutions. My name is Jess Grady-Benson and I am the Organizing Director with Rogue Climate, a community organization based in Coos Bay and the Rogue Valley.

Many from the South Coast weren't able to drive to Salem on such short notice. However, there are many community members gathered in Coos Bay, ready to share their stories and ask you to vote No on HB 3382-4. They have long careers in fishing, tourism, science and public service, all of which depend on a healthy bay. As of the time of this hearing, more than 240 community members from the South Coast and across Oregon had submitted comments in opposition. Only 2 comments have been submitted in favor - one of which is from the Oregon Public Ports Association.

Right now, local cities and other stakeholders are in the middle of updating the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan for the first time in 40 years. This is a robust public process to lay out a community-wide vision and management plan for the estuary and the industries that depend on it.

**Why is the Oregon legislature rushing to undermine the role of Goal 16 right as this collaborative process is getting underway? Why not wait until this update is complete?**

HB 3382-4 will undermine the role of our local governments in overseeing Estuary Management Plans. Cities have not been consulted regarding the language or impacts of this bill. Multiple Coos Bay and North Bend City Council members have submitted testimony raising these concerns.

The fundamental tenets of goal 16 require that water dependent industries need to demonstrate whether their project is needed, has substantial public benefit, and that it will not interfere with public trust rights. HB 3382-4 would erode that essential land use process. This could set a dangerous precedent that would undermine the integrity of our land use system for the sake of a single project. This land use system is essential as the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, heat waves, and sea level rise are already having a severe impact on rural coastal communities and economies.

Please vote no on HB 3382-4.

Sincerely,  
Jess Grady-Benson  
Organizing Director, Rogue Climate  
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