

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, and Members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Sofia Fox, and I am a student at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. I am writing in opposition of HB 3382 because of the environmental threat it poses to the Coos Bay Estuary, as well as other environments, and the dangerous precedent that it sets.

The Coos Bay Estuary provides essential habitat for numerous species, many of which are economically important in Oregon. Additionally, estuaries provide numerous ecosystem services including water filtration, nutrient regulation, and storm protection. The beautiful sites around the estuary are also of great importance in the recreation and tourism industries. In my time studying them, I have fallen in love with all of the organisms living inside the estuary, as well as with Coos Bay. Deep draft navigational channel improvements such as those mentioned in HB 3382 have the potential to modify and harm the estuary ecosystem in numerous ways, many of which we may not even understand yet. Allowing ports to bypass critical legislature will enable them to move forward with dangerous developments harming the estuaries, and thereby several economies that local communities rely on.

HB 3382 threatens our waters and estuaries, but it also threatens our futures. If ports are given a pass for development, where will the passes end? Local legislature is critical to ensuring that communities get a say in the development that happens around them and directly impacts them.

I urge you to vote no on HB 3382.

Sincerely,

Sofia Fox