

From: [James Seavers](#)
To: [JCT Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Heather Mann](#); [Jeff Lackey](#)
Subject: State of Oregon HB2284
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 10:57:43 AM

Dear Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Committee Members:

My name is Jim Seavers, and I'm opposed to HB2284 because the bill takes away administrative responsibility from locally elected members of our community and replaces them with community members appointed by the Governor.

I am a Newport resident and own two commercial vessels, one of which, because of its size, can only be moored at the Terminal. I have been in the commercial fishing business for over 40 years.

The current Port commissioners are working hard to correct deficiencies at the Port, and are beginning to have success at addressing the Port's problems. To remove local control from elected officials I believe would be a mistake.

The problems eliminated in the past few years were caused by decisions of creating a dock in Yaquina Bay in the early 1950s to create a dock by sinking a concrete ship in the bay and backfilling the area to create a dock for shipping logs and lumber. And this worked. Until it didn't. Environmental problems surfaced and that portion of the Terminal was taken out of use by shippers and fishermen.

The funds from the bond passed to fix the terminal problem were spent mostly to fix the environmental problem. Additional money was obtained to get the Port to the condition it is in today.

Fishermen were told in earlier Port meeting by Longshoremen that shippers would top priority at the Terminal to be successful. This would put the fishing fleet at a huge disadvantage because vessels the size of vessels in the current fleet can only be accommodated at there Terminal. We need a place to moor and service our vessels. This demand would eliminate any chance for continued success of our local fishing fleet.

At a subsequent Port meeting Longshoremen said that log shippers would be willing to ship only 9 months of the year- something they never mentioned previously. Had they done so, we probably would have repacked a deal on sharing the Terminal use.

There will still be challenges ahead. But I believe we are on the right course to fix the Problems at the Port of Newport, and I urge the Committee to take no further action on HB2284.

Sincerely,

Jim Seavers