

From: [Michele Longo Eder](#)
To: [JCT Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2284 OPPOSE
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 1:03:25 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michele Longo Eder. I'm a long-time resident of Newport, a retired attorney, and I'm an owner of a commercial fishing business. And I'm a registered Democrat.

I'm writing to oppose HB 2284.

I recognize the concerns and frustrations voiced by some witnesses who will appear before you today, as expressed in the exhibits, that the Port of Newport has not adequately addressed the needs of some user groups. In particular, the Port must improve its efforts to attract and retain shipping. While past actions may not have appeared to be supportive of shipping, I have confidence that the currently elected Commissioners of the Port will be able to meet the challenges before them.

But the idea that the legislature and the governor would step in to appoint Commissioners is, essentially, undemocratic. Frankly, it's shocking. It smacks of political overreach. Our current Port Commissioners are elected leaders by the voters of the Port District. Regardless of whether I agree with them on any given issue, they are public servants, respected by the voters of Newport, who are exercising their best judgment to serve the citizens of the Port District.

I urge you to vote "No" on this bill. In the alternative, should you consider passage, I recommend that you do so only if you attach amendment 2, requiring you to refer the issue of elected Commissioners, or appointed ones, to the voters of the Port District. I do so only because I am confident it will be defeated. The voters of Newport support their democratically elected representatives to do the work of the Port, not political appointees.

Finally, I would underline that the City of Newport, and our elected City Council, join me in this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Michele Longo Eder
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