

Submitter: Annie Pollard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3382

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Oregon House Bill 3382 and Coos Estuary Management

Dear Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation,

I hope this message finds you well. As a small business owner and a proud member of the Coos Bay community, I am writing again to express my concerns regarding Oregon House Bill 3382, which proposes exempting the port from adhering to our Estuary Management Plan. The recent amendments seem to isolate Coos Bay as the only target port for exemption from land use regulations, but do nothing to assuage my particular concerns regarding the impacts of the bill itself in Coos Bay.

I own two restaurants in Coos Bay, and I provide my customers with seafood sourced from the Coos Estuary. A large percentage of my clientele live or visit here because of the fishing and other recreational opportunities a functioning estuary provides. I understand firsthand the immense value and significance of a thriving estuary ecosystem. It is not only vital for the sustainability of my business but also for the overall well-being of our community.

While I acknowledge the need for certain dredging projects, I firmly believe that any such endeavors must be approached with utmost caution and transparency. There will always be negative impacts associated with such projects, which makes it even more crucial to establish a comprehensive process that weighs the benefits against these adverse effects. The people of our community deserve to witness and actively participate in this decision-making process.

By exempting the port from following our Estuary Management Plan and land use regulations, House Bill 3382 risks disregards the environmental and social consequences of dredging activities. This lack of accountability raises serious concerns about the long-term well-being of our estuary and its associated industries, including my own small business.

Moreover, as the wife of a City Council Member, I want to highlight our deep dismay upon learning, quite late in the game, about the existence of this bill. The fact that this information did not reach us through a process involving local councilors but rather through the efforts of grassroots organizations is very concerning.

It is essential for local elected representatives to be aware of and have the opportunity to participate in discussions that directly impact their constituents and

communities. We believe that a robust and inclusive process, involving local councilors and other relevant stakeholders, is necessary for making well-informed decisions regarding the Estuary Management Plan and related legislation.

I kindly request that you consider the voices of local officials, businesses, residents, and visitors who greatly depend on this estuary and vote to reject HB3382 and the amendments associated with the bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,
Annie Pollard
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