

Submitter: Ken Bonetti
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3382

Dear House Rules Committee Members:

My name is Ken Bonetti from North Bend, Oregon. I am writing again to express my strong opposition to the Port Exemption Bill, HB 3382. In what would be a tragic reversal of decades of state and local land use progress, HB 3382 would enable major deep-water ports in Oregon to bypass essential land use and environmental regulations for the sake of fast-tracking extensive dredging and channel modification. This bill sets a very dangerous precedent, enabling corporations to bypass the critical regulations that ensure our estuaries continue to support our local coastal economies like crabbing and fishing, as well as many other uses of the bay by coastal residents. Please vote no on HB 3382.

Coos Bay is a valuable preserve of flora and fauna that are already well diminished from the quantity and quality of the original habitat. The blasting and dredging that would be required to create and maintain a 45' draft would destroy or damage much of what is left. That is why they want the exemption. I am disturbed that the Oregon legislature is entertaining such an outrageous proposal.

Also, please ask the deep port promoters for the data and methodology behind their job projections. Ask them how many direct jobs, post-construction, will be created and who will fill them, Indirect and induced jobs don't count because those can spin off from any job- and income-creating development. I suspect the job claims are significantly inflated. Quantity and quality of direct jobs and who will likely get them, along with community and environmental impacts are what matter. Do some independent research and find out. Please don't rely on industry lobbyists to provide the facts.

Most importantly, I am asking you to stand with South Coast communities and Oregonians across the state in opposition to the Port Exemption Bill. Please vote no on HB 3382 and urge your colleagues to do likewise.

Yours Sincerely,
Ken Bonetti
North Bend, OR