

Submitter: Teresa Wicks
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

Greetings to the Committee,

I am a lifelong Oregonian, dedicated to protecting our public lands and natural spaces for future generations of Oregonians. I'm writing to urge you to withhold support for HB 3382. This bill would weaken state and local land use regulations throughout some of the most ecologically important and sensitive waterways in our state. Oregon residents have been fighting the Coos Bay LNG facility for decades now and if passed, this bill could once again open the door for out-of-state interests to force this pipeline (or other projects that don't actually benefit the state or my fellow residents) on residents of Coos Bay, Coos County, and the state.

This bill would potentially open the door to unchecked dredging and development, relying on industry and/or capitalism to protect our waterways. And industry and out-of-state interests cannot be relied upon to act in the best interest of ecosystems or human communities. Indeed, when LUBA found serious issues with the dredging plan for the Coos Bay navigation channel, developers pushed to change our 50+ year system of land use regulations, rather than reworking their plans to comply with our regulations. This is a clear example of industry not acting in the best interest of ecosystems or human communities, only their pocketbooks.

Please do not give into industry and out-of-state corporations. Do not give ports the ability to conduct development projects that aren't in the best interest of all Oregonians. Uphold our 50+ year history of protecting public lands rather than providing ports with the ability to harm our submerged and submersible state lands. If developers want to do business in Oregon they should, at the very least, comply with our current rules and procedures.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Teresa Wicks