

Submitter: Paul Sherman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3382

I strongly oppose House Bill 3382.

It would severely damage Oregon's land use planning system, and cripple Oregon's ability to limit federal actions that affect our estuaries.

Oregon's land use laws require careful consideration before actions are permitted which might damage public resources. Estuaries are critical coastal ecosystems, the links between the land and ocean. Estuaries nurture a variety of valuable organisms such as salmon, Dungeness crab, herring, oysters, clams, and migratory waterfowl. Intact estuarine systems can enhance water quality, buffer communities from storms, and sequester carbon, as well as providing recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.

It would be reckless to remove the legal requirements that ensure caution by allowing ports to dredge estuaries without complying with state and local regulations. That's what House Bill 3382 would do, and why it should NOT become law.