

Submitter: Eileen Stark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure: HB3382

Dear Members of the Committee on Transportation:

As a biologist, I strongly urge you to vote No on the Port Dredging Exemption Bill, HB 3382, which would set a dangerous precedent and endanger the health of some of the most ecologically sensitive and crucial waterways in Oregon. Our state's estuaries support tens of thousands of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, and serve as nurseries for a wide variety of wild species, including salmon. In addition, eel grass, which is essential habitat for many species and functions to improve water quality to support ocean health, would be destroyed.

HB 3382 enables major deepwater ports in Oregon to bypass essential land use and environmental regulations for the sake of fast-tracking extensive dredging and channel modification and should not be passed into law.

Thank you.