

Submitter: Carmen Matthews
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation State Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem,
Oregon 97301

Subject: Concerns regarding House Bill 3382 and the Coos Estuary Management
Plan

Dear Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Transportation,
I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As a city council member representing the residents of Coos Bay, Oregon, I write to express my deep concerns regarding House Bill 3382 and its potential impact on our community, particularly in relation to the Coos Estuary Management Plan.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize the importance of community involvement and consultation when it comes to making decisions that affect our waterways. The Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan has been a crucial document in guiding the sustainable development and management of our estuary, ensuring that the delicate balance of environmental preservation and economic growth is maintained.

House Bill 3382, as it was originally written raises concerns as it granted certain entities a free pass to conduct major alterations to our waterways without proper consultation with the community and without adhering to the guidelines set forth in the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan or state land use law. This lack of community involvement and deviation from established management strategies poses a significant risk to the long-term health and vitality of our estuary ecosystem, and deviates from the "Oregon Way" of land use planning. The last minute amendments do not give our council adequate time to review and take public comment, which resembles the original intent of the proposed bill.

The Coos Bay Estuary is not only a natural habitat for diverse flora and fauna but also a critical resource for our local economy, providing numerous recreational opportunities, supporting commercial and recreational fisheries, and attracting tourists. Any alteration or development in the estuary must be approached with great care, considering the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts. Oregon's land use planning structure allows a collaborative stakeholder approach and gives a voice to our local citizens through the channel of the City Council. Omitting local input is unacceptable.

It is my sincere belief that any proposed changes to the regulations governing our

waterways should prioritize public participation and consider the recommendations of the Coos Estuary Management Plan. The plan was created through extensive collaboration among local stakeholders, scientific experts, and governmental agencies, ensuring a balanced approach that reflects the needs and aspirations of our community. Ignoring or bypassing this plan would undermine the efforts and progress made towards achieving a sustainable and thriving Coos Bay.

Therefore, I oppose House Bill 3382, considering the concerns expressed by Coos Bay residents and our commitment to preserving the Coos Bay Estuary. I urge the bill sponsors to include public consultation, involvement, and adherence to the Coos Estuary Management Plan before crafting proposals that are within our jurisdiction, or cut us out completely.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust in your commitment to making decisions that safeguard the interests of our community, protect our natural resources, and ensure a sustainable future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Carmen Matthews
City Council Member
Coos Bay, Oregon