

I am Anne Bellomy, and I am a relative newcomer to Coos Bay. I have only lived here about eight years. But I moved here for the natural beauty, weather, and open spirit of the area. How many times have I heard our senators and representatives come to local open forums and speak of the “Oregon Way”? The way of respecting and desiring everyone’s opinions and knowledge. When we can come together to discuss issues and develop a compromise, we make better and more informed decisions. For this reason I am writing to express my opposition to Oregon House Bill 3382. This proposed bill would exempt selected deep water ports from compliance with an array of state and local land use and environmental protection laws. The bill strips Oregon citizens of their right and ability to shape what happens in their communities. It is anti-democratic. It is the “old-time” let’s let the outside special interest developers do whatever they want with no regard for their impacts to our environment, to the lives of the citizens here, or to the fishing and tourism industries that we depend on.

In addition to excluding collaborative processes, this bill is short-sighted and foolish. It has been offered in the service of trying to support a “lost cause” - the construction of a major container port in Coos Bay. For the same good reasons the Port was turned down for a huge federal grant the first time, it will be turned down again. Bottom line, it isn’t needed, it would be too expensive to develop, and other existing ports on both coasts would outcompete us everyday.

Thank you for your consideration of this information and I urge the committee to vote no on HB 3382.