

Submitter: Susan Anderson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

I write to ask that the Transportation Committee send this bill and its amendments back to the drawing board. While I support the development of container ship docks at the North Spit, if it can be done without endangering the fragile environment of the estuary and bay, it is inappropriate to deep dredge the bay to bring ships into the Bay itself. Many poisons lie under the top portion of bay soil and deep dredging will release these World War II spoils into the Bay. There is no delineation as to the placement of the removed dredge. Without proper disposal that material will release poisons into the air, the surrounding soil, and the groundwater. This bill was developed without any consultation with the impacted ports or the city governments surrounding them. They were consulted after the fact for support where even worse deal making led to the first amendment to the bill. Trying to clean up this mess at this late hour of the session won't cut it. It should be scrapped and sent back through a more appropriate process for next session. Bypassing state and federal agencies may also lead to a loss of federal funding for various agencies in the state, something Oregon can ill afford. This project, like all other projects, should go through the established procedures rather than bypassing them. To grant these waivers will not only jeopardize the beauty of the ports but set a dangerous precedent which will lead to the loss of all land and water management in the state. The failure to follow federal rules may also cost the state federal funds which it cannot afford to lose. Please stop this bill and allow the container project to proceed through the normal channels long established in the state of Oregon!