

Testimony Opposed to HB 3382, Lawless Dredging of Coos Bay Estuary
Michael Dean, North Bend OR
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I am strongly opposed to HB 3382 for these reasons:

1. Measure would circumvent decades of established land use produces designed to protect the Public Trust and public assets including the Coos Bay estuary, while arriving at optimal land use outcomes.
2. By waiving key land use planning processes, the measure would allow lawless development. Further, it would shut the public out of the decision-making process.
3. By speeding development and excluding the public from decision-making, poorer decisions will result. That is especially the case where bad actors such as the Port of Coos Bay are left without oversight.
4. Waiving land use planning processes in this situation will have an immediate, corrosive impact on land use processes generally, and creates a slippery slope. It undermines the rule of law.
5. This measure is simply not needed, and is certainly not an “emergency” as declared in the most recent amendment. In fact, analysis by the Coos Bay League of Conservation voters reveals that the project driving this bill is merely another of the Port of Coos Bay’s many boondoggles whose primary purpose is to justify the organizations own existence. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8a_yIoE84w.
6. The Public Trust would not be protected should the measure pass. Our due process and the ecological integrity of the Coos Bay estuary are undermined.
7. The measure represents a subsidy to the Port of Coos Bay at the expense of a wide array of constituencies. It allows the Port to avoid being held responsible for the many costs it will create for the public.
8. There is evidence that the proposed dredging in the Coos Bay estuary will not accomplish its goal due to the required depth of dredging of solid rock.
9. This measure would have a significant impact on global warming.
10. This measure would cause the loss of compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.
11. Exemption aimed at the Port of Coos Bay could have major, unforeseen consequences at other ports named in the measure.
12. The measure includes no real limitations and no expiration.
13. The targeted dredging of the Coos Bay estuary will have significant environmental impacts to existing fisheries, the fishing & oyster industries, recreation, and blasting will impact land owners adjacent to the estuary.