

Submitter: Linda Gonzales
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

I oppose HB3382-4 because this bill allows the ports to bypass the estuary management plan. It gives the port of Coos Bay the authority to dredge pretty much anything without any input from the public. The Port wants to deepen and widen the navigational channel 45 feet. This will required extensive blasting to remove bedrock. Additionally, channel widening will result in a reduction in of the eel grass beds, an essential fish habitat, and would adversely affect the hydrology, coastal erosion due to increased wave activity, and species diversity of the estuary. This would also greatly affect the fishing and tourist industry causing hundreds of people to lose their jobs. In reality, this channel would only be able to accommodate smaller ships that are becoming obsolete. The small ships are older and the newer ships are too big for a 45 ft. channel. In the future, this would ultimate Coos Bay from any contracts with big shipping companies. Also, because of a one track and a two lane roads it would make difficult to transport cargo inland. This is job killing and not profitable adventure.