

Submitter: Jennifer Sordyl
On Behalf Of: Future generations of the planet
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

I am a resident of Coos Bay, Oregon. One of the reasons I chose to live in Oregon is because over half of the state is public lands and forests. I appreciate all the effort, over many years, that has been made to protect the natural resources of our beautiful state and especially the coast. Now we must logically and carefully shepherd our resources to deal with climate change.

HB 3382-4 is At Odds with Oregon's Climate Goals

- ? Oregon's coastal communities are on the frontlines of climate change. Climate resilience on the Oregon Coast will depend on the ability of healthy estuaries to protect low-lying coastal communities like Coos Bay from flooding and sea level rise.
- ? Protecting Oregon's estuaries is a climate solution. Estuaries such as the Coos Bay estuary act as carbon sinks by storing and sequestering carbon 10 times more efficiently than forests.
- ? Large scale dredging and channel modification cause irreversible impacts on eelgrass - a critical estuarine species responsible for carbon sequestration. The proposed Port of Coos Bay's channel modification project may occur where some of the largest and healthiest eelgrass beds are located in the Coos Bay estuary.
- ? Dredging and channel modification could have irreparable impacts on estuarine species like shellfish, which are essential to Oregon's coastal economies. These species are already increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to ocean acidification on the Oregon Coast.
- ? HB 3382-4 puts unchecked development over Oregon's climate and planning goals.