

Submitter: Nora Terwilliger
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure: HB3382

As a University of Oregon Professor Emerita of Biology at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, Oregon, who has taught Invertebrate Biology and carried out research on the physiology of estuarine animals, especially the crabs and polychaete worms of the Coos Bay estuary, since the early 1970s, I am strongly opposed to the passage of HB-3382. Oregon has been a leader in developing scientifically based planning goals and comprehensive enforceable environmental laws that have helped preserve our estuaries so that they continue to function as highly productive, major habitat and nursery for fish, crab, clams and other marine organisms and plants. In addition to supporting our fisheries, our estuaries function in providing water quality and mitigating climate change. Coos Bay serves as a living laboratory for the undergraduate and graduate students who study at OIMB and observe firsthand the Bay's biological significance, as do our local families, visitors, and researchers from around the state and world.

HB 3382 would bypass Oregon's land use laws that protect our ecosystems and communities, and it would negate local regulations, public input, and environmental assessment, removing our five major ports from valuable processes that protect these key parts of our State. Oregon has had a proud record of democratic process and citizen input, from our early steps in the 1970s when the Land Conservation and Development Commission was set up (I served as a member of the Coos County District 5 Citizens' Planning Committee and later on the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Advisory Committee) until now. HB 3382 is the antithesis of community involvement and State land use planning.

Please do not allow this bill to pass.

Respectfully submitted, Professor Nora B. Terwilliger