

February 3, 2025

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

FR: Duke Shepard, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for HB 3050

Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, for the record, my name is Duke Shepard, I am a senior policy director for Oregon Business & Industry (OBI).

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Oregon is a trade dependent state with the good fortune of having both the mighty Columbia River and a spectacular coastline on the Pacific that are both historically fundamental to our economy. Port viability is an absolutely core component of a viable and growing state economy in a globally competitive environment; this bill represents an opportunity to be attentive to the strength of Oregon's port infrastructure, from Morrow County to Curry County.

Oregon's businesses need dependable, efficient, well integrated Port facilities to bring in and move out the products and materials that Oregonians manufacture and grow. I want to particularly highlight the importance of sustaining the improved container operations at the Port of Portland and potentially investing in the enormous unmet potential at the Port of Coos Bay. Both can position Oregon to have an improved cost and access profile for exporters, importers, and trade partners across the globe.

OBI urges your support for HB 3050.

Thank you.

Contact: Duke Shepard dukeshepard@oregonbusinessindustry.com