

Co-chairs Lieber and Sanchez:

My name is Suzanne Porter, and I am a resident of the Charleston area. This testimony highlights important issues for the southern Oregon coast, an area that gets less attention than other less isolated regions. South coast issues that do come to the attention of the Legislative Assembly tend to be presented by organizations with narrow interests and are not necessarily reflective of the larger community's needs.

### **SB 1000/Bay Area Hospital - Support and Enhance**

Bay Area Hospital (BAH) is one of many health care organizations that made strategic investments prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and are now struggling financially. BAH is a public hospital with its own taxing district, and it is the only regional hospital on the south coast.

- The BAH Board's plan is to "partner" with Quorum Health, a move they believe will provide investment for revenue-generating hospital services.
- Quorum Health is funded by private equity and emerged from bankruptcy in 2020. Quorum has a history of closing or downsizing rural hospitals. While the BAH board believes Quorum's intentions are good, *Quorum's troubled financial history suggests this partnership merits additional scrutiny.*
- The 2025 Legislative Assembly should amend and pass SB 1000. Funding should be increased to allow BAH to operate for the 2025-27 biennium while a legislatively created task force or other state-level committee examines the organizational and fiscal future of BAH to ensure it continues as a public non-profit hospital.

### **HB 5024 6(3)/Coos Bay Navigation Channel Dredging - Oppose for this Session**

Little information is available to the public as to the nature of this funding. The federal government maintains the current Coos Bay navigation channel. The Port of Coos Bay received \$40 million from state lottery funds in 2023 and \$49 million in federal government grants in 2024 to further the proposed Pacific Coast Intermodal Port project. As you know, this project is dependent upon receiving a \$2.8 billion construction grant from the federal government. The current geopolitical and international trade situations indicate less trade with Asia and an increased risk that the federal construction grant will not materialize for many years, if ever. The Legislative Assembly should "pump the brakes" on awarding more money for this project in the 2025-27 biennium.

**SB 1001/Coast Community Health Center - Support**

CCHC provides high quality health care and pharmacies for people of all income levels in southern Coos and northern Curry counties. Federal health centers like CCHC are facing interruptions in their federal grant monies, so state support is needed more than ever. CCHS is the main provider in Bandon and Port Orford.

**HB 3580/Eelgrass Task Force - Support**

Charleston is Dungeness crab county, and eelgrass provides the habitat for adult and juvenile crab and other critical species. We need to know more about eelgrass dynamics to support the Charleston fishing fleet and the estuarine ecosystem.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on issues important to the people of the southern Oregon coast.

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