

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

April 18, 2025

I write in support of HB3587, HB3580, HB3081, HB3170, and SB5518

I reside in Coos Bay, retired from the public education profession but have not given up on education in my community. While teaching biological science, the Coos Estuary fit perfectly as an outdoor lab and subject to learn about natural and cultural history of the coast. I served on the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's Commission in the education seat until my retirement. I currently serve on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, as the Coastal At-large position. All this experience has made it vividly clear that economic benefits to the communities of the coast and estuaries rely on the health of these ecosystems.

House Bill 3587 is worthy of support as it will foster stewardship of essential coastal habitats that are visited by many people on this planet, not just Oregonians. Not only do they serve many ecological services vital to fisheries they are key to coastal recreation and tourism.

HB 3580 Eelgrass Taskforce legislation is also important to our estuarine economies.

The activities of development in estuaries globally and certainly along this coastline have damaged the biological and hydrological functions of these highly productive systems. We have estuary management plans which are mostly outdated to recent science which points in the direction of re-establishment of these ecological services (fisheries nurseries, flood control, sediment trapping, pollution filtering, carbon sequestration) through restoration. These bills are a decent start in that direction.

I also worked about a decade as an energy analyst trade ally of Energy Trust of Oregon, helping local residents reduce their energy footprint and costs with home energy efficiency upgrade plans. HB3081, HB3178, and SB5518 assist in this realm to make our communities more affordable, resilient, and sustainable and livable.

I oppose the \$10 million appropriation in HB5024 to dredge the channel in Coos Bay for the reasons stated above. All the ecological services will be negatively impacted by this further deepening and widening the bay for a shipping channel that is currently adequate for the industries present. The PCIP currently in consideration is vastly over optimistic in its economic benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



Jamie Fereday
1017 Elm Ave.
Coos Bay, OR 97420