

March 24, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee Natural Resources

Subject: DSL/South Slough Budget (HB 5035)

Greetings!

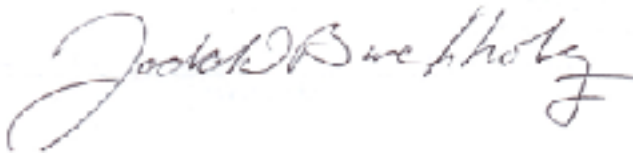
I am currently of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the South Slough. As such, I have watched with some trepidation the funding discussions regarding the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) over the past year or so. I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the final HB 5035, and so wish to thank you all for supporting the Reserve for the 2019 budget cycle.

This budget not only includes the regular funding for much science education programs and estuary research endeavors, but will enable the the SSNERR to increase their capacity for school programs and much needed summer science camps by funding a full-time seasonal educator. School kids in the South Coast area have little opportunities to learn hands on science, so the educational services provided by SSNEER are an amazing resource for our South Coast communities.

In addition, this budget will allow for a part-time, year-round GIS data management and analyst position. This position will improve SSNERR's efficiency and provide continuity between their grand funded GIS projects.

Once again I thanks the Committee for continuing to support this worthy and critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Buchholz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

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