



9450 SW Commerce Circle, Suite 180  
Wilsonville, OR 97070

**PACIFIC HABITAT SERVICES, INC**

(800) 871-9333 • (503) 570-0800 • Fax (503) 570-0855

March 22, 2021

**Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee**

900 State Street NE, Room H-178  
Salem OR 97301

**RE: Senate Bill 5539**

Dear Subcommittee Members:

This letter is in support of Senate Bill 5539, which relates to the financial administration of the Department of State Lands for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021.

I have worked as a Professional Wetland Scientist for the past 32 years. During that time, my work has covered the Western States, plus two states on the East Coast. My experience has given me a very good perspective on how state governments work, and the level of support they are afforded. To date, the Oregon legislature's support of the Department of State Lands has been money well spent. My experience is that the Department of State Lands provides excellent service. Its staff are professional and informative. Not only do they offer good advice for applicants wishing to impact wetlands, but their work to support Statewide Planning Goal 5, wetland mitigation, and stream and wetland functional assessments, makes them excellent stewards of our State's resources. Maintaining the Departments' financial support is vital, which is why I endorse Senate Bill 5539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John van Staveren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John van Staveren  
Senior Professional Wetland Scientist