

Nancy Windholz  
Driftwood Elementary  
1210 Oregon Street  
Port Orford, OR 97465

Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

March 24, 2021

Dear Senator Kathleen Taylor, Representative Jeff Reardon and members of the Committee,

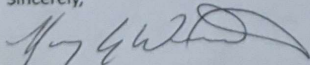
The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is located in the Coos estuary where it provides valuable public recreation and learning opportunities for Oregon residents and visitors, as well as conducts important monitoring and research to better understand and manage coastal watersheds and estuaries.

I am an elementary teacher and I am pleased to support Senate Bill 5539 because it provides necessary operational funding for the Department of State Lands, including the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve provides a place for my elementary students to learn about watersheds and enjoy hands-on exploration while being led by the capable South Slough staff. My class takes field trips to the South Slough in both the fall and spring, and the staff also comes to my classroom to continue the educational experience. The enthusiasm students gain for science and the Slough often results in them later bringing their families to the Slough to visit and learn. This valuable science-based programming gets the students out of the classroom and excited not only about science in general, but also about the coastal environment.

I encourage the Committee to pass SB 5536 to continue support of the South Slough Reserve and its important work.

Sincerely,



Nancy Windholz  
Elementary Teacher