



Sunny Wolf Charter School

Shawn Hardy
Sunny Wolf Charter School
100 Ruth Ave.
Wolf Creek, OR 97497

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

3/25/21

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

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) 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 Shawn Hardy and I am the program coordinator for the Sunny Wolf Charter School Outdoor School Program. 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.

For years I have been partnering with SSNERR to provide Outdoor School programming for my 5th graders. SSNERR is so important because it provided me with free curriculum, materials, guidance, and program site. The South Slough has provided my students with valuable science-based programming as well as a deeper understanding of land and wildlife stewardship. My students understand what "Sanctuary" is; they understand why it is valuable and how it is maintained. Due to our experiences at The South Slough, my students understand why we have public lands and how to support public lands. Finally, the South Slough made such an impression on some of my students, as 10 and 11 year-olds, that they are now, as adults, pursuing careers in wildlife and land management.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn Hardy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shawn Hardy