

Maggie Prevenas
7th Grade Science Teacher
Sky View Middle School
63555 NE 18th St
Bend, OR 97701

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.

As a middle school Science teacher, I am more than happy 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.

I have participated in several valuable learning opportunities offered through the South Slough's Reserve. The opportunities allowed me to understand the importance of active educational outreach for the Reserve, know the importance of keeping the Reserve as an active research and monitoring site as well as network with other Oregon teachers. In turn, I passed my new understanding on to my 300+ students over the past 2 years. I know the activities that I learned while participating in the workshops at South Slough Reserve helped my students better appreciate the beauty and special nature of this place we call Oregon, our home.

With global climate change a reality, an understanding of wetlands and their role in keeping our ocean healthy and surrounding land biodiverse is essential! I encourage the Committee to pass SB 5536 to continue support of the South Slough Reserve and its important work.

Sincerely,

Maggie Prevenas