



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF  
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA & SIUSLAW INDIANS**

1245 Fulton Ave. Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Phone (541) 888-9577 or 1-888-280-0726  
Fax (541) 888-2853

February 2, 2021

Vicki L. Walker  
Oregon Department of State Lands  
775 Summer St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301-1279

Dear Director Walker,

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (The "Tribe" or "CTCLUSI") want to thank you and your staff for your commitment to the continued protection of our invaluable cultural resources. We appreciate the early communication effort and continued collaboration on management of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNRR). Our Tribe has endured and persevered through many hardships to retain our cultural identity, practice, and connection to place. We are dedicated to our role as stewards of our 1.6 million-acre homelands on the Oregon Coast encompassing the coastal watersheds of the Coos, Umpqua, and Siuslaw Rivers, all which take their name from our heritage.

The Reserve's scientific and outreach priorities are similarly aligned with the Tribe's cultural and natural resource missions. We continue to work collaboratively with the Reserve to provide community education and outreach programs to the youth and community members, monitor water quality and assess climate change to better understand stressors on our local resources in Coos Bay. It is important that all lands held and managed by the Reserve be managed appropriately and in a consistent manner under the Reserve's current management plan. Therefore, the Tribe is pleased to support Senate Bill 126, which provides the necessary statutory changes to allow for the expansion of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's administrative boundary to include all the Reserve-managed lands connected to the South Slough. The proposed statutory changes would allow the Reserve to formalize the long-term protection of its acquired lands for research, education, and stewardship, and open additional federal funding opportunities to support the responsible management of the lands encompassed by the expanded boundary.

The Tribe also takes an active role in the management of the Reserve by serving on the South Slough Reserve's Management Commission and has supported the Department of State Lands in acquiring land on behalf of the South Slough Reserve. We encourage the Committee to pass SB 126 and support the South Slough Reserve in its important work.

We appreciate the ongoing communication and consultation on these important management issues at the Reserve and look forward to continued collaboration on the protection of cultural and natural resources. If you would like to follow-up with any additional questions or discussion please reach out to Roselynn Lwenya, Ph.D. Culture and Natural Resources Director at (541) 435-7151 Ext 7551 or [rlwenya@ctclusi.org](mailto:rlwenya@ctclusi.org).

Sincerely,



Debbie Bossley

Tribal Chair, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Cc: Land Board