



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of State Lands

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

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Senator Arnie Roblan
900 Court Street NE, S-417
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 445

February 27, 2019

Dear Senator Roblan,

On behalf of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, I thank you for your leadership on behalf of the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC). We support continued funding of the OISC for improving coordination of statewide invasive species work, grants to improve education and outreach related to invasive species, and critical support for rapid response efforts to address new invasions.

As stewards of the South Slough Reserve—a 5,000-acre natural area of Coos Bay that Oregonians set aside in 1974 as a place to study and learn about estuaries—our responsibility is to maintain the integrity of the estuary and protect the area for long-term scientific study and education. Our management priorities include climate change, habitat conservation, and invasive species.

We value the work of the OISC to educate the public and prevent the introduction and spread of exotic plants and animals in Oregon's woodlands and waters. We welcome your efforts to build the Council's capacity to respond to threats posed by invasive species—whether long-established, like the gorse spreading across Curry and Coos counties, or newly-arrived, like European green crabs.

Last year, we were pleased to help coordinate and host a meeting of the OISC in Charleston. During the two-day meeting, members of the Council were briefed on the wide array of critical invasive species affecting the Oregon Coast. For example, the invasive European green crab, which was first noticed on the West Coast in 1989 in San Francisco Bay, has recently established a foothold in Oregon's estuaries. Scientists are concerned that it may pose a threat to Oregon's Dungeness crab fishery—the state's most valuable commercial fishery—by out-competing the native crabs for food and habitat.

The Council also received updates on the work of the Gorse Action Group to eradicate this highly flammable invasive plant from Coos and Curry counties, progress in managing ballast water exchanges in ships to keep new aquatic pests out our estuaries, and about the emergence of environmental DNA (fragments of DNA found in the environment) as a powerful new tool for the early detection of aquatic invasive species.

State Land Board

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Governor

Dennis Richardson
Secretary of State

Tobias Read
State Treasurer

The South Slough Reserve recognizes the value of continuing to support the efforts of the OISC through our own work. Our Coastal Training Program provides decision-maker training and assistance for coastal managers and identifies the OISC as a valuable audience for new information about managing invasive species. Additionally, our science, stewardship and monitoring staff work closely with many of the entities represented on the Council to share the results of our research related to the status and movements of invasive species in estuaries and coastal areas.

In closing, we appreciate your continued efforts to support OISC's important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bree K. Yednock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bree K. Yednock, Ph.D.
Reserve Manager