

**TEXAS STATE AQUARIUM & KOCH INDUSTRIES
ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF
THE INTERPRETIVE WALKWAY AND KOCH PAVILION**

Corpus Christi, February 4, 1999 - Through the leadership and generosity of Koch Industries, Inc., thousands of Texas State Aquarium (TSA) visitors and school-aged children will gain a new knowledge and appreciation of the Coastal Bend area ecosystem following the grand opening of the Interpretive Walkway and Koch Pavilion. Ribbon cutting ceremonies are scheduled for 2:00 PM, Friday, February 5 with State Senator Carlos Truan and State Representative Gene Seaman among the special guests.

This learning laboratory, which also includes teacher workshops and the outreach program, was made possible through a \$50,000 grant from Koch Industries. "Today marks a significant event for the environment and education. This environmental education partnership with Koch, the Texas State Aquarium and the Coastal Coordination Council will be a great benefit not only for the people in this community, but all who visit the Aquarium," said Senator Carlos Truan.

The Koch Pavilion is a focal point of the new Interpretive Walkway which tells the story of the Port and the Port Industries. It is a scenic walkway that begins at the Aquarium's outdoor marsh exhibit and runs along the ship channel. Students and other Aquarium guests will have the opportunity to study the habits and habitats of the creatures living in the jetties and marshes along the channel while viewing informative exhibits that illustrate local industries' role in protecting the coastal environment. Graphics along the walkway explore the history of the Port, its importance to the area, and the many industries and companies, like Koch, that depend on it.

The Interpretive Walkway provides a wonderful view of the ships entering and leaving the Port. "Koch, the Aquarium and the Coastal Coordination Council are to be commended for demonstrating how we can

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all work together to make our home a better place to live. The Interpretive Walkway exhibits tell the story of the important role the Port of Corpus Christi and our local industries play in our community. Not only do they provide jobs, but they also do their part in protecting our delicate coastal environment and in promoting education opportunities,” said State Representative Gene Seaman.

“When giving back to the community, education and environment are two fundamental issues on which Koch focuses,” said Joe Coco, vice president of refining and manufacturing manager for Koch Industries, who oversees Koch’s Corpus Christi refinery. “Koch’s partnership with the Texas State Aquarium is an example of our commitment to environmental education. We are proud of the role industries play in protecting the coastal ecosystem, and through the Interpretive Walkway, we are pleased the community will gain a deeper understanding of that commitment.”

Koch’s Corpus Christi operations, Koch Petroleum Group, L.P., has 1,200 employees in South Texas and is a subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc., which employs 16,000 people worldwide and is involved in virtually all phases of the oil and gas industry, as well as in agriculture, chemicals, chemical technology products, energy services, asphalt products, metals and minerals services, real estate and financial investments.

The Texas State Aquarium plays an important role in a better future for the animals, plants and people around the world. The Aquarium is dedicated to providing quality programs about aquatic animals and habitats of the Gulf of Mexico through education, conservation, and rehabilitation. It is an undersea family adventure that keeps the *wonder alive!* The Texas State Aquarium - you gotta *sea* it!

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