

Submitter: Gina Mayonado

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or SB5521  
Topic:

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) fully funds the Private Forest Accord. This landmark agreement was secured after hard negotiations between timber, conservation, and fishing interests and significantly improves private forest management for clean water, fish, forests, and wildlife. The agreement passed the state legislature in 2022 after decades of hard work by community members, organizers, and scientists advocating for change.

However, the Private Forest Accord is not a done deal. If the state of Oregon doesn't secure a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by December 31, 2027, all the changes will roll back. This means the requirements on more than 10 million acres of private forestlands for larger stream buffers that shade streams will disappear. Logging will be allowed as close as 20 feet from some rivers, and small headwater streams will lose protections from clearcuts. Years of hard work to improve protections for forests, fish, and wildlife will be lost.

Without proper funding to implement the accord, these crucial safeguards could be lost. I urge you to ensure that the budget for the Oregon Department of Forestry supports the full implementation of the Private Forest Accord.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Gina Mayonado