

Submitter: Josselyn Berry

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

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

As someone deeply invested in the health of Oregon's forests and the communities that rely on them, I'm writing to urge your support for full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical programs under the Private Forest Accord (PFA).

The PFA represents a historic collaboration between 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups — a hard-fought agreement that modernizes Oregon's logging rules on over 10 million acres of private forestlands. This landmark effort strikes a balance between protecting vital natural resources and ensuring the sustainability of Oregon's forestry industry.

A crucial element of the PFA is securing a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027. Without it, the new science-based rules risk being rolled back to outdated standards, jeopardizing the protections we've worked so hard to put in place for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife, clean water, and the people who depend on these resources.

To uphold the integrity of the PFA, I respectfully ask that you fully fund the following programs:

SFISH Grant Program: \$10 million to support small forestland owners as they implement the new requirements and safeguard their lands.

Adaptive Management Program: \$6 million to ensure ongoing scientific evaluation of the new rules' effectiveness, allowing for data-driven adjustments as needed.

These investments are not just about compliance — they're about keeping Oregon at the forefront of sustainable forest management and honoring the unprecedented collaboration that made the PFA possible.

I sincerely hope you will champion this funding and help secure a healthier, more resilient future for Oregon's forests and the communities they sustain.

Thank you for your time and leadership.