

Submitter: Dana Manners

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'm writing to urge your full support for the Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and the funding needed to make it a success. The Private Forest Accord is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect Oregon's forests, fish, and waterways — the result of years of hard work, negotiation, and science.

This agreement will safeguard over 10 million acres of private forestlands, providing critical protections for threatened salmon, amphibians, and clean water. It expands streamside buffers, improves road and culvert standards, and invests \$15 million annually in wildfire resilience, beaver conservation, and habitat restoration. These protections finally bring Oregon up to the environmental standards long in place in Washington and California — while also giving landowners the regulatory certainty they need to thrive.

But without state funding, this progress is at risk. Federal approval of the HCP is required by December 2027 — a deadline we cannot afford to miss. The Adaptive Management Program, Small Forestland Owner Investment in Stream Habitat (SFISH), and ODFW Mitigation Program are the backbone of this plan. Full funding for these programs in the 2025-2027 budget is critical to meeting federal requirements and ensuring this agreement delivers on its promise.

Oregon's forests and waterways are part of what makes this place so special — and they're essential to both wildlife and our communities. I urge you to vote yes on full funding for the Private Forest Accord and keep this historic agreement on track.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting Oregon's natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Dana Manners