

Submitter: Sara Simon-Behrnes

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,

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a groundbreaking agreement that brought together timber industry representatives, conservation groups, and fishing organizations to strengthen Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. It provides critical protections for fish, wildlife, clean water, and the communities that depend on these resources.

A key component of the agreement is securing a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan for over 10 million acres of private forestlands. Without approval by 2027, the new protections will be lost, reverting to outdated standards.

To uphold this commitment, I urge you to fully fund two essential PFA programs in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521):

\$10 million for the SFISH grant program to support small forestland owners.

\$6 million for the Adaptive Management Program to ensure the new rules are effective.

Your support is vital to protecting Oregon's forests, waterways, and the people who depend on them. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Sara Simon-Behrnes