

Submitter: Ruben Halperin

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 you today as a concerned Oregon citizen and registered voter regarding the Private Forest Accord (PFA). As you certainly know, 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. The PFA provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources.

A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. I am quite concerned, however, about the fact that without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

I beg of you: PLEASE support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs: SFISH grant program and the Adaptive Management Program. The SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million and the Adaptive Management Program designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thank you,
Ruben Halperin
Beaverton, Oregon