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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

What we need right now are two things:

(1) Getting an approved federal plan – which is on track

! The state is preparing to submit a final version to the federal agencies at the end of June; then it will go through federal review as part of the NEPA process (DEIS, FEIS); and then – Incidental Take Permit approved for ODF and the state

(2) Making sure that critical programs that are essential to getting federal approval are funded in the next state budget (2025-2027 biennium)

! The PFA Mitigation Grant program – which just successfully kicked off its first-ever round of funding, is at risk and not guaranteed funding in the next state budget cycle.

? This is based on an annual commitment from landowners and the state to a 50-year fund to improve habitat and protect water quality

? The commitment established under the PFA is for the state to invest \$10M annually in addition to a contribution from industry (\$2.5M annually until the HCP is finalized, then goes to \$5M/year) to support the Mitigation Program

! Contingent upon \$10M annually from the state – which needs to be built into the base budget as a core component of the program

? The Adaptive Management Program – which is effectively responsible for assessing whether the rules are working or not to meet key objectives (are we seeing more wood in streams, are we limiting streams from getting too warm – are we supporting healthy riparian forest habitat) – is also at risk

? And a grant program specifically designed for small forestland owners tackling some of the most expensive types of projects – upgrading or replacing culverts and stream crossings – is also at risk (SFISH program)