

Submitter: Kyle Collins

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:

I am writing you today to express my support for this bill, which will maintain full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA) for the long term. Without funding for conservation programs outlined in the PFA, it is unclear if federal approval will be granted and subsequently could imperil the massive gains in habitat restoration and clean water that have been made under the PFA over the last few years. It is crucial that we take action now to maintain and improve on these previous wins while also providing more certainty for forest landowners over the next 50 years. Without long-term planning and substantive enhancement provisions like those outlined in the PFA, our wildlife, aquatic habitats, and drinking water resources are likely to continue a downward trajectory, particularly as climate change become more acute in our region.

Without a federally-approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the hard won and compromise based rules outlined in the PFA will be rolled back entirely to the the previous standards, which are significantly outdated, based on incomplete scientific knowledge, and have largely failed to protect clean water and salmon habitat. Without a solid commitment to fund core conservation programs at the state level, otherwise we may risk losing access to federal funding and expertise.

On behalf of our aquatic habitats and clean water supplies, which are among our strongest assets, I urge you to fully fund \$10 million for the SFISH grant program for small forestland owners and \$6 million for the adaptive management program to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (Senate Bill 5521).

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

-Kyle Collins, Bend, OR 97701