



March 11, 2025

Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of 350PDX, a volunteer-led climate advocacy organization, to support Senate Bill 5521's funding for all aspects of the Private Forest Accord, including \$10 million for the Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) grant program for small forestland owners and \$6 million for the adaptive management program to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules developed under the Private Forest Accord.

The Private Forest Accord is a landmark agreement between the conservation community and timber industry that has been endorsed and implemented by the Oregon legislature. Allocating the money needed to implement the projects needed under Private Forest Accord is the necessary next step to ensure the PFA goals are met and the certainty that it has created for all stakeholders does not disappear.

The funds needed for PFA implementation are very small in comparison with the overall ODF budget request of \$832 million. The requested \$10 million for SFISH is just 1.2% of the budget and increasing the allocation by \$6 million to fund Adaptive Management will only be less than 2% of the total budget. However, the need they fill is very great - if the legislature does not allocate sufficient funding for PFA implementation, and this leads to a delay in the Habitat Conservation Plan being approved and implemented, all the gains of this landmark agreement may be lost.

Please act now to show your goodwill towards Oregon's forests and the communities that depend on them, and provide a solid commitment to fund the core conservation programs of the Private Forest Accord.

Sincerely,

Brenna Bell
Forest Climate Manager, 350PDX