

Submitter: Dianne Ensign

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

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

I urge you to support the Private Forest Accord (PFA), a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forest lands. It 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. The natural world is suffering on so many levels. Amphibians, which are a bio indicator species, are an especially vulnerable part of the animal population: over one third of amphibian species are at risk of extinction, and over 200 species have already gone extinct since 1980.

A key part of the PFA calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forest lands. However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (SB 5521) for two critical PFA programs. 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.

Thanks for your consideration,

Dianne Ensign