

Submitter: Kristin Covert

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 reaching out to urge you to support the Private Forest Accord, a groundbreaking logging agreement between 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups. From disparate sides, they came together to create a consortium and negotiated broad reforms to Oregon's rules on private forestlands. It not only provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, but also provides resources and refuge 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. However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to outdated standards.

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

SFISH grant program for small forestland owners should be fully funded at \$10 million

Adaptive Management Program, designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules, should be fully funded at \$6 million.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kristin Covert