

Submitter: Hava Dennenberg

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:

As an OREGONIAN CONSTITUENT I am URGING YOU to do the moral thing here. Can you really sleep at night knowing that you are contributing to the decimation of our beautiful forests, profoundly and adversely impacting our wildlife that depend on these lands for their thriving, and damaging our entire ecosystem which WE HUMANS also benefit from?

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. 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.

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a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.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.

The Private Forest Accord provides significant new protections for fish and stream-dwelling frogs and salamanders, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources.

? The Private Forest Accord takes Oregon out of years of gridlock about how private industrial forest lands are managed and brings Oregon closer to the protections that have been standard practice in Washington and California for years.

? The Private Forest Accord overhauls the existing Oregon Forest Practices Act to better protect wild salmon streams on more than 10 million acres of private Oregon forestlands. It expands streamside protections for harvesting trees near streams, overhauls forest road standards and requires a comprehensive inventory process, holds road-stream crossings to new standards for flow and fish passage that reflect a

changing climate, and establishes a 50-year fund with investments of \$15 million per year from the state and industry for projects that increase wildfire resiliency, support beaver conservation, establish conservation easements and more.