

Submitter: Wendy Wagner

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:

The Private Forest Accord has created a lot of wins for our state, but it stands on shaky ground. To provide more certainty for forest landowners and improve protections for clean water and fish over the next 50 years, we have got to fully fund the accord.

Without a federally-approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the new rules roll back to the outdated standards that failed to protect clean water and salmon habitat. Without a solid commitment to fund core conservation programs, Oregon's path to federal approval is unclear.

Please 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).

As someone who grew up in Oregon's rural southwest, I've seen streams ruined by logging and the floating bodies of suffocated baby salmon. As an avid hiker and traveler, I've sat in cafes in Corbett and Gearhart and heard locals talk about the way their water sources have been damaged by logging companies. We have got to do a better job taking care of our rural neighbors and supporting the forests we all depend on for clean air and water.

Sincerely, Wendy Wagner