

Submitter: Kate Merrell

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or SB5521
Topic:

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

Now is the time to secure the wins of the Private Forest Accord for the long haul, to provide more certainty for forest landowners and improve protections for clean water and fish over the next 50 years.

But these changes aren't guaranteed. Without a federally-approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards that failed to protect clean water and salmon habitat.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).

Sincerely, Kate Merrell