

Submitter: Philip Ratcliff

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) is the result of hard negotiations that overhauled state law regarding logging on private industrial forestlands. This long overdue update of logging practices included significant improvements for clean water, forests, and fish, and broke decades of gridlock about how private industrial forestlands are managed. The PFA success hinges on funding for the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to complete its work which requires development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for private forestlands. The required HCP would seek federal approval to address potential impacts of timber harvest and forest practices on aquatic species. If the work can be funded and completed, Oregon has the chance to secure improved protections for clean water, forests, and fish. HB 5009 would ensure that the PFA is fully funded over the next two years.