

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

I have lived in Oregon since 1972 and have enjoyed recreating in Oregon's forests and rivers. I urge you to support full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA) in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Budget (HB 5009) in order to provide more certainty for forest landowners and improve protections for clean water and fish over the next 50 years.

The Private Forest Accord provided significant rule changes which improve environmental management and benefits of Oregon's privately owned forests. However, these changes are not guaranteed. Without a federally-approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards which failed to protect clean water and salmon habitat.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.

Therefore, please fully fund the Private Forest Accord Grant Program at \$20M in the 2025-2027 state budget. This reflects the state's commitment of \$10M annually to this grant program under the PFA authorizing legislation from 2022 (SB 1501). This contribution is in addition to a \$2.5M annual contribution from the timber industry that increases to \$5M annually after federal approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This long-term investment is a core part of the negotiated agreements and for securing a federally approvable HCP by December 2027.