

Submitter: Jennifer Bushard

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

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

I own and help steward over 80 acres of forest land in Oregon, including creeks and waterways. Conservation and protection of habitat in our forests is important to me.

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 to securing a federally approvable HCP by December 2027.

Without a solid commitment to fund core conservation programs, Oregon's path to a federally approved PFA HCP is uncertain. With your leadership and prioritization of this process, Oregon has its best chance to secure a federally approved HCP.

Thank you for accepting comments and for your work,
Jennifer Bushard