

Submitter: Kevin Shanley
On Behalf Of: MCAT
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:

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.

The PFA is representative of an all-too-rare coming together of industrial forestry and environmental groups in strong a clear consensus that is a win-win for our rural communities and our environment and deserves your full support!

Please fully fund the Private Forest Accord Grant Program at \$20M in the 2025-2027 state budget.

Sincerely,

Kevin Shanley