

Submitter: Hillary Tiefer

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:

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a necessary agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate reforms to state law. That accord provides significant new protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who need these resources.

As a key part of the agreement the state of Oregon must get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan for more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules revert to outdated standards that won't properly protect forestlands.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009) for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program. The PFA Grant Program should be fully funded at \$20M. This reflects the state's commitment of \$10M annually to this grant program under the PFA authorizing legislation from 2022 (SB 1501). This commitment is matched by a \$2.5M annual contribution from the timber industry, which increases to \$5M annually after federal approval of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This program invests in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians. We must prevent more wildlife species in these forests from going extinct. We have to consider the importance of protecting forests for future generations. That is why it is important to support HB 5009.

Sincerely,  
Hillary Tiefer