

Submitter: Lisa Kelz

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 support HB 5009 and ask you to please make sure that the Private Forest Accord (PFA) is fully funded over the next two years.

It has taken a lot of time, energy, and commitment for the conservation and timber industry representative groups to negotiate this important update to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Thus the Private Forest Accord Grant Program (PFA) was born. The PFA provides better protection for fish and water quality, as well as providing more support for forest landowners.

HB 5009 provides funding for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, ensuring the completion for the PFA Grant Program, and the implementation of the PFA. Part of this agreement is establishing the need for federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) over 10million acres of private forest lands. This plan needs to be enacted before 2027 or all this hard work will be lost and all will revert to old and obsolete rules.

Please support HB 5009 to fund ODFW and the Private Forest Accord Grant Program.

This funding should be \$20 million, reflecting the state's commitment of \$10 million per year 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 supports restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

The work of the PFA can guide forestry on private land for generations. Please secure these improved protections for clean water, forests, and fish now and into the future by fully funding these programs.

If you do, you will go down in history as the one's who made a big difference in the survival of forests and species!

Thanks for your consideration

Lisa Kelz