

Submitter: Genevieve DeGuzman

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) is a special agreement that has enshrined Oregon's approach to logging on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. This agreement provides protections for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife in the forests adjacent to streams, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources. A key part of the agreement calls for the state of Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. In addition, the agreement overhauls forest road standards and requires a comprehensive inventory process, holds road-stream crossings to new standards for flow and fish passage that reflect a changing climate, and establishes a 50-year fund with investments of \$15 million per year from the state and industry for projects that increase wildfire resiliency, support beaver conservation, establish conservation easements and more.

However, without a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

I write to show my long-standing support for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program to 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). Importantly, 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).

I love Oregon for its natural resources and beauty. Oregon should protect its restoration projects and keep up the progress we've made to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

Thank you,
Genevieve DeGuzman
Portland, OR 97212