

Submitter: Michael Lilly

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 the Private Forest Accord to improve protection for clean water and fish while providing more certainty for forest landowners.

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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 Private Forest Accord 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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments. Please fully fund the Private Forest Accord Grant Program at \$20M in the 2025-2027 state budget.

Michael Lilly

Private Forest Land Owner and conservationist.

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