

Submitter: Lloyd Vivola

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:

As an honored watershed restoration activist with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and contributor to the process of developing the pending state Habitat Conservation Plan, I am writing to urge your support for the full \$20 million funding of the Private Forest Accord Grant Program as requested in the Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget HB 5009.

The PFA is a fine example of how Oregon stakeholders with diverse perspectives and self-interests can come together to update state law toward the goal of better ensuring a healthy future for the state's waters, its aquatic wildlife, including endangered salmon species, and the human communities who rely on these resources.

The PFA Grant Program is designed to play an essential role in Oregon's commitment to finalize a federally-approved Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, a 50-year project that would enhance ecological and economic certainty for some 10 million acres of Oregon's private forest lands. Not meeting standards of federal approval would mean reverting to long outdated standards.

Undoing decades of hard work by scientists, conservationists and timber industry advocates at this juncture would be most unfortunate. Please fully support funding of the PFA Grant Program as requested in HB 5009.

Thank you as always for receiving public comments during this busy time at the State Legislature.

Lloyd Vivola