

Submitter: Martha Neuringer

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 is critical to assuring the future of Oregon's forest. As a small woodland owner committed to forest protection, I ask you to fully fund the Private Forest Accord Grant Program with an appropriation of \$20M in the 2025-2027 state budget. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds for environmental project and endangering federal forests, we desperately need a fully-funded Private Forest Accord Grant Program more than ever.

It took so much time, effort and complex negotiation among diverse interests to reach this historic agreement; please don't let it falter for lack of funding. We desperately need to secure approval of a federal Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, and PFA is critical to this goal. In the face of an accelerating climate crisis and environmental degradation, we need the long-term protections for forest, clear water and fish that the PFA provides.

Thank you for your attention to these comments. Please provide full funding of the Private Forest Accord Grant Program at \$20M for 2025-2027.

Respectfully,
Martha Neuringer