

Testimony in Support of HB 5009  
April 1, 2025

Joint W&M Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Co-chairs Frederick and Levy & members of the Committee, for the record my name is Michael Oliver and I'm a resident of Portland.

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 5009 and specifically to support the inclusion of Section 6, the allocation of \$4MM for the Private Forest Accord grant system.

I want to recognize the Accord both for its unique collaboration between conservation organizations and the State's private woodland owners/operators as well as the critical conservation activities it funds and supports.

Having lived in Oregon since the early 1970s, it is to me quite an achievement that these groups have found common ground and joined together in recognition of the crucial role conservation, habitat restoration and improvement play in the health of Oregon's privately-held woodlands and their ability to sustain continued economic value to the communities near which they are located. I believe the allocation of the funds requested in HB 5009 are minimal and represent a tremendous investment opportunity by Oregon's taxpayers in the future management of private woodlands in the State.

Though I would like to see the proposed current allocation increased, I hope you will pass the bill forward with a do pass recommendation with at least the current allocation of \$4,000,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.