

April 1, 2025

17055 NW Springville Rd.

Portland OR 97229

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) was a landmark agreement regarding Oregon's logging rules on private forestlands. Thirteen timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law. It provides significant new 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. We Oregonians love our forests and are committed to sustainable uses and protection of those forests. Twenty six separate entities agreed on this approach so the support and participation is broad and robust.

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. Private landowners are an important part of making this plan sustainable and viable in the years moving forward. Climate change is adding new pressures to forest management and federal involvement is key to implementation. I spend every day I possibly can visiting our state forests and public parks and at 70 years of age I am still volunteering whenever I can.

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a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.

Please support full funding in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009) for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program. The PFA Grant Program should 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). This shows that the forest industry is a supportive partner in the program which invests in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

Thanks for your consideration,

Susan Nolte

