

Submitter: Kayla Archer

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 am in support of funding the Private Forest Accord (PFA). The PFA was not a quick negotiation between the timber industry and conservation groups. The significant protections proposed for fish, stream-dwelling amphibians, wildlife, and people who rely on clean drinking water (all of us), is an agreement that cannot be defunded or cut.

This agreement requires a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan across more than 10 million acres of private forestlands. Without passing the funding this will revoke all agreements that both parties have agreed to. This is something that has already been promised, required, and passed through. I see this as your duty to follow through with continuing to allocate funds for what citizens have already requested and won.

At a time where droughts are becoming more and more common, it is vital to protect the natural resource best at sustaining life. We cannot let the current political climate (that will pass) to dictate the value of this land. We will regret expanding the bounds of timber cuts.

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 program invests in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

Thanks for your consideration