

Submitter: Chris Handy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

Dear Co-chairs of the Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee,

The Private Forest Accord was a landmark agreement secured after hard negotiations between timber, conservation, and fishing interests. The agreement significantly improves private forest management for clean water, fish, forests, and wildlife. It was the result of decades of hard work by community members, organizers, and scientists calling for change.

This means the requirements on more than 10 million acres of private forestlands for larger stream buffers that shade streams will disappear. Logging will be allowed down to 20 feet from some rivers and small headwater streams will have no protections from clearcuts. Years of work to advance better protections for forests, fish and wildlife will be lost.

These protections are critical and I am urging you to please make sure that the Private Forest Accord is fully funded by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife budget (HB 5009). With this support, we can ensure that these landmark protections remain in place for generations.

Thank you for your consideration,
Christopher Handy