

Submitter: Chris Dodge

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 Committee Members,

The Private Forest Accord (PFA) is a major agreement that provides crucial protections for fish, amphibians, wildlife, and clean water, benefiting both the environment and local communities. A key part of the agreement is for Oregon to get a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan covering over 10 million acres of private forestland. Without this approval by 2027, the new rules will roll back to outdated standards. So many stakeholders spent years to make this happen -- it would be an absolute shame if all that work and collaboration was for nothing.

Please support fully funding the Private Forest Accord Grant Program in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009) at \$20M. This amount matches the state's \$10M annual commitment under the 2022 PFA legislation (SB 1501) and is paired with \$2.5M in annual contributions from the timber industry, increasing to \$5M after federal approval of the Habitat Conservation Plan. These funds go toward vital restoration projects that help protect habitat for fish and amphibians across the state.

Thanks for your time and serious consideration!

~Chris Dodge, lifelong Oregon resident