

Submitter: Dianne Ensign

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

I care deeply about protecting the environment, and protecting other species and the habitat they require to not only survive, but thrive. Amphibians are especially vulnerable; over one third of amphibian species are at risk of extinction and over 200 species have already gone extinct since 1980. They face a range of threats, including habitat loss, pollution, and climate chaos. They are a bio-indicator species, so their presence is great way to tell whether an ecosystem is doing well or not. I strongly support the the Private Forest Accord which provides significant new protections for fish and stream-dwelling frogs and salamanders, for cold clean water, and for the people who rely on these resources.

The Private Forest Accord takes Oregon out of years of gridlock about how private industrial forest lands are managed and brings Oregon closer to the protections that have

been standard practice in Washington and California for years. The Private Forest Accord overhauls the existing Oregon Forest Practices Act to better protect wild salmon streams on more than 10 million acres of private Oregon forestlands. It expands streamside protections for harvesting trees near streams, overhauls forest road standards and requires a comprehensive inventory process, holds road-stream crossings to new standards for flow and fish passage that reflect a changing climate, and establishes a 50-year fund with investments of \$15 million per year from the state and industry for projects that increase wildfire resiliency, support beaver conservation, establish conservation easements and more.

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a federally approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards.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 program invests in restoration projects across the state to conserve and protect habitat for fish and amphibians.

Thanks for your consideration,

Dianne Ensign