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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

PFA HCP Budget Needs

? The Private Forest Accord is the result of decades of hard work by community members, organizers, and scientists calling for change.

? In less than a year, 13 timber industry representatives and 13 conservation and fishing

groups came together to negotiate broad reforms to state law under the Oregon Forest

Practices Act.

? In 2022, the state legislature passed those agreements into law under SB 1501 and SB

1502. New administrative rules to implement the changes went fully into effect on January 1, 2024.

? 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 forest lands.

If approved, this 50-year plan will provide more certainty for forest landowners, while at the same time requiring increased protections for threatened salmon and amphibians.

Why does it matter?

? The Private Forest Accord 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 forest lands.

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.

The most important thing to know is that the Private Forest Accord is not guaranteed.

? Baked into the agreement is a hard deadline – if the state fails to get federal approval for

the PFA HCP by December 31, 2027, all of the changes roll back

? Full funding for natural resource agencies to ensure successful implementation of the

PFA and a federally approveable HCP is critical in the 2025-2027 biennium.

? Underfunding these programs in the next biennium puts the viability of the PFA and a

federally approved HCP at risk.