

Submitter: Walt Mintkeski

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5521

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

I have lived in Oregon since 1972 and have enjoyed recreating in Oregon's forests and rivers. I urge you to support full funding for the Private Forest Accord (PFA) in the Oregon Department of Forestry's Budget (Senate Bill 5521) in order to provide more certainty for forest landowners and improve protections for clean water and fish over the next 50 years.

The Private Forest Accord provided significant rule changes which improve environmental management and benefits of Oregon's privately owned forests. However, these changes are not guaranteed. Without a federally-approved Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) by 2027, the new rules roll back entirely to the outdated standards which failed to protect clean water and salmon habitat. Without a solid commitment to fund core conservation programs, Oregon's path to federal approval is unclear.

Therefore, I urge you to fully fund \$10 million for the SFISH grant program for small forestland owners and \$6 million for the adaptive management program to evaluate the effectiveness of the new rules in the Oregon Department of Forestry's budget (Senate Bill 5521).

Walt Mintkeski, SE Portland