

Submitter: Hope Lobkowicz

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 Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support full funding for the Private Forest Accord Grant Program (\$20 million) in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's budget (HB 5009).

This program provides critical investment in restoration projects across the state, protects habitat for fish and amphibians, and perhaps most importantly, has been agreed upon by the timber industry and conservation groups. However, the Private Forest Accord must move forward now in order to obtain a federally-approved Habitat Conservation Plan by 2027 - without this, Oregon will be go back to old standards, negating years of progress on conservation.

The funding of the Private Forest Accord Grant Program is the next step in the what the stat legislature already passed and 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).

Thanks for reading,
Hope