

Submitter: Philip Ratcliff

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5009

Both conservation and timber groups want Oregon lawmakers to fully fund the Private Forest Accord. The law, which increased protections for salmon across 60,000 river miles and broke decades of political gridlock, requires \$36 million each biennium for three core programs. But Governor Kotek's current budget allocates only \$14 million. Without state funding, this program is at risk. Under-funding this program also jeopardizes the state's ability to secure a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan. Oregon needs federal approval for a PFA Habitat Conservation Plan by December 31, 2027—or all of its historic rule changes roll back, from larger buffers that keep streams cool and shaded, to new standards for roads and stream crossings.