

Chair Beyer, Vice Chair Findley and members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

SCR 17, An Environmental Justice Framework for Oregon, is a meditation on leveling the playing field for our American pursuit of health and happiness. We are long overdue for a change in mindset around what we should or shouldn't be dumping into the environment and who has a voice in where it's dumped.

My family was spared the worst of the wildfires last summer - we didn't lose our home - but for the first time in our lives, we couldn't take breathable air for granted. One of my family members has a serious asthma condition and most of my time that week was spent desperately sealing up every possible way that smoke could leak into our house. As intense and scary as that week was, it made me connect in a visceral way with those that live in that situation on a permanent basis. Many citizens who are less fortunate than I live near to some pollution source that is eroding their family's health.

I urge you to support SCR17 as a step in changing our Oregonian mindset to one that honors the idea of a level playing field in matters so basic to life.

Most sincerely,

Jed Irvine