

TO: Senate Committee On Rules
RE: Support of SJR 28
DATE: March 19, 2024

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Senate Committee On Rules,

My name is Miranda Jones, and I am a student at Willamette University. I am majoring in Environmental Science and Studio Art. I support SJR 28, which would allow Oregonians to vote on the constitutional amendment guaranteeing their right to a safe and healthy environment.

As an environmental science student, I have been thinking and learning about feedback loops created by human impacts on the environment, and how the resulting environmental changes impact human health and wellbeing. Environmental health and human health are inextricably linked to one another; the pollution that corporations generate and dump ends up in water sources and soil, contaminating drinking water and food. Climate change is causing increasing morbidity and mortality in the most vulnerable populations. Therefore, the condition of the environment should be seen as a **human rights issue** because it impacts people's ability to survive and prosper.

Adding the right to a healthy environment in the state constitution would protect this right from political interference and help prioritize environmental issues. It would pave the way for state officials to better enforce environmental regulations, create new laws, and increase the success of outside parties challenging legislative decisions that harm the environment.

It is time to acknowledge that a healthy environment is fundamental to the physical and mental well-being of human beings, and should therefore be enshrined into law.

Let's get SJR 28 on the ballot and allow Oregonians to decide on this important amendment to the state constitution!

Sincerely,
Miranda Jones