

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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Preventing environmental disasters is much less costly than cleaning up after disasters.

The state should be self-motivated to prevent harm to air, water, ecosystems and to take faster action on climate change. These administrative actions will work to prevent further degradation of our water sources and the atmosphere that will take decades to reverse, if even possible.

Protecting our health and safety from environmental threats should not be left to the whims of politics. Every person, including children and future generations, deserves access to clean water and air, to live free from smoke/fires and other effects of climate change and to be able to continue to pursue our livelihoods.

Around the world, courts are increasingly recognizing governments' legal responsibility to protect natural resources for future generations. But in Oregon, Chernaik made clear that without explicit constitutional protections, the courts will not step in to enforce climate protections.

The science is clear that increased temperatures and droughts in the West and North America generally from climate change are responsible for the increased frequency and intensity of wildfires. The Oregon Legislature cannot sit idly by and allow this threat to Oregonians be unaddressed.