

Submitter:

Debra McGee

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR28

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-Chair Bonham, and honored members of the Committee. Thank you for taking my testimony in support of SJR 28, Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment.

As you know, the need to protect our environment has never been greater. Scientists tell us we are far behind the curve in averting the worst effects of global heating and we are not making the robust plans we need to meet those difficult challenges. State and local governments are the new leaders in protecting the natural systems on which we all depend for clean air, water and soil, biodiversity and a stable climate. And they must be empowered to take the actions to slow warming and usher in a renewable, clean energy economy.

Oregonians' lives and futures, depend on a safe and healthy environment. It's our wonderful quality of life with so much natural beauty, limitless recreation opportunities, which is the heart of an economy that supports working people.

The SJR28 amendment puts Oregonian's value of safety and a healthy environment, which we all hold, into our State constitution. If passed by the voters, the State government will be required to step up to prevent environmental threats to the health and safety of Oregonians.

We need this bill to make explicit our state and local governments' responsibility to protect Oregonians from human-caused environmental harm. Protecting our communities should be our government's highest priority and this bedrock obligation belongs in our state Constitution.

Thank you.