

Submitter:	Patricia Hine
On Behalf Of:	350 Eugene
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SJR28

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-Chair Bonham, and esteemed members of the Committee, thank you for taking my testimony in support of SJR28-1, Right to a Healthy Environment.

I am a retired Navy officer, college instructor and full-time community organizer working for a stable climate future for our children. I am very concerned that the progress our country has made in cleaning up our environment over the last 50 years is going to be rolled back with the new administration in Washington, D.C. It is time for state and local governments to get into high gear to protect the life-support systems on which we all depend. We are counting on you to do this. We are the people who are here now in this situation, and there's no getting around it. It's up to us.

I am calling up on you to play your very important role here in protecting public health and safety in advance by requiring the State government to prevent harm before it happens. This amendment is a preventive tool, to improve the oversight and regulation of industry by the Oregon state government, remembering that it is far less costly to prevent environmental harm, than to clean it up afterwards. Not to mention the personal and collective harms that occur due to air and water pollution and other toxins.

Oregon needs to prevent harm to air, water and ecosystems in advance and to take bolder action on climate change. The science tells us we're running out of time, so these administrative actions will work to prevent further degradation of our water sources and the atmosphere. It's never been more urgent.

Thank you for protecting Oregonians.