

Submitter:	Mark Lindberg
On Behalf Of:	Interfaith Earthkeepers
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SJR28

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would establish the fundamental right of all Oregonians to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. As a resident of this great state, I believe it is our collective responsibility to protect our air, water, and natural resources for present and future generations. Enshrining this right in our state constitution will ensure that environmental protection is not just a policy preference but a legally recognized and enforceable right.

Oregon has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, yet we continue to face serious challenges, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and the impacts of climate change. Communities across the state, particularly those that have historically borne the brunt of environmental degradation, deserve stronger legal protections that guarantee their right to a livable environment. This amendment would empower individuals and communities to hold government and industry accountable for pollution and harmful environmental practices.

Furthermore, a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment would provide a legal foundation for stronger environmental laws and policies. It would ensure that future legislative and regulatory decisions prioritize the well-being of our ecosystems and public health. The amendment would also send a clear message that Oregon values sustainability, environmental justice, and the health of its residents.

Opponents may argue that such an amendment could lead to litigation or regulatory burdens. However, the experience of other states and nations with similar constitutional protections has demonstrated that these provisions lead to proactive environmental governance and economic benefits by fostering sustainable practices and innovation. Oregon's economy depends on a healthy environment, from agriculture and fisheries to tourism and outdoor recreation. Protecting our natural resources is not just an ethical imperative—it is an economic necessity.

I urge this committee and the Oregon Legislature to support this amendment and take a bold step toward ensuring that every Oregonian has the right to live in a clean, safe, and healthy environment. By doing so, we affirm our commitment to future generations and uphold the values that make Oregon a leader in environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your support in advancing this amendment to the Oregon Constitution.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark A. Lindberg