

Submitter: Chelsea Jolly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Chelsea Jolly, I am a resident of Benton County, and a 3rd generation Oregonian. I am writing in strong support of the proposed amendment to Oregon's state constitution under SJR-28 that would enshrine the right to a safe, clean, and healthy environment.

To me, this amendment is one of the most important proposals to our state constitution in my lifetime. As our state faces increasing environmental challenges: air and water pollution, habitat destruction, and large scale industrial extraction. These issues are not just abstract concepts; they have real and tangible impacts on our health, economy, and quality of life. Issues I have seen first hand as my neighbors and I have fought for our health and dignity while our water and air have been compromised by industrial pollution and lack of regulation.

I feel that submitting this amendment to a public vote, would truly reflect the dedication of this legislature to transparency, public involvement, and shared decision-making on issues crucial to the state's future.

When we consider the absence of explicit protections for a clean, healthy, and safe environment in our state constitution, it raises an important question: How are we currently ensuring the health and well-being of our communities and families?

Without giving Oregonians the opportunity to vote on these fundamental rights, what are we doing to protect the future safety and prosperity of our children, our neighbors, and ourselves? Leaving something as vital as clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment undefined and unprotected allows ambiguity to seep into areas that are central to our quality of life. How can we afford to overlook, or understate these essential elements that form the foundation of public well-being?

In addition to the ethical and moral imperative to protect our environment, there are also numerous public health and economic reasons to support this amendment. Clean air and water are critical to preventing illness, and ensuring access to these basic resources fosters a healthier population. Furthermore, protecting our environment also supports key industries that are vital to Oregon's economy, including agriculture, fishing, tourism, and renewable energy.

I urge you to support this amendment to our state constitution going to the ballot, to

stand for the protection of Oregonians and our environment, and give us the opportunity to choose for ourselves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Chelsea Jolly