

Submitter: Linda Perrine  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28  
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SJR 28-1 - SUPPORT

Chair Jama and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

I started my career at NASA's Johnson Space Center working as a Space Shuttle systems engineer on the Environmental Control and Life Support Systems console in the Mission Control Center. In my 20's, the irony was not lost on me how we could refer to the systems that keep the astronauts alive as "life support systems" and yet down here on Earth, we never make use of the term "life support systems" when we speak of what keeps humans alive on this planet. This realization changed my life direction from engineering to environmental education, then organic farming in Eugene, and finally climate and environmental activism. Currently, I serve as the volunteer Campaign Manager for the Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment (OCERA) who is the lead organization (of 40+ orgs) drafting this amendment and advocating for its legislative referral to a future election ballot.

After a Masters degree in Environmental Education, I worked as a Field Instructor at a California Outdoor Science School to hike and teach 5th/6th graders about the ecosystems of the Santa Cruz mountain redwood forest. We had 5 school days to impart on young students the ways in which their lives depended on photosynthesis, water cycle, carbon cycle, watersheds, decomposition and more. I also instructed a General Ed course called "Projects in Sustainable Living" at Penn State University in State College, PA. This 1 acre outdoor research & practice facility, in the shadows of the enormous Penn State football stadium (more irony), provided students a chance to learn by doing: bio-intensive garden beds, waste recycling via "living machines", natural building with straw, cob, recycled materials, and critical thinking about our American lifestyle. We studied Ecological Footprint analysis to determine each student's impact on natural ecosystems by their use of energy, water, food, carbon footprint and production of waste. The Ecological Footprint measurement tool has matured into the Global Footprint Network ([www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)) which is now working to rapidly educate all of us that humanity is consuming 1.75 planet Earths of regenerative biocapacity from our planet today, meaning we are living on depletion. With no state requirement on ecological literacy in our school curriculums, students leave with no degree in how to be good citizens of planet Earth.

While the world is "waking up" to the reality of climate change and ecological overshoot, we continue to believe that capitalism and an endless growth economy

can continue unabated. We are still in denial that our children will inherit a more difficult and unhealthy future. We need to act now to declare inherent fundamental rights to a healthy environment for all people, children and future generations, so that these values become part of our state law. This will empower the Executive and Legislative branches to act to preserve a sustainable environment for all Oregonians. Industries that are not causing harm to health and safety have nothing to worry about. No person or industry has the “right to pollute” and cause harm to their neighbors.

SJR 28 Right to a Healthy Environment proposed constitutional amendment will declare Oregonian’s stated values of living in a “green” healthy state with the intention of keeping it that way. Oregon needs to modernize its approach to environmental protection and make its environmental values reflected in law thereby enabling our government’s duty to protect it. Our children will thank us when they see that we rose to our challenges and acted with their futures in mind.