

Submitter: Rand Schenck
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28
To: Rules Committee
From: Rand Schenck
Date: March 24, 2025
Re: Right to a Healthy Environment

I am writing to you to urge your support for SJR 28, the Right to a Healthy Environment. I have been concerned about climate change since 1989 when I read Bill McKibben's *The End of Nature*. Sadly, so much of what he wrote some 35 years ago has come true: a perilously warming climate; more severe and frequent storms; prolonged droughts; and much loss of biodiversity.

In Oregon we face increased threats to important parts of our economy: the productivity of our forests, our farms, our fisheries. Wildfires frequency and severity is increasing.

In Oregon we need to do our part by achieving net zero by 2050. We can lead the way. A constitutional amendment can ensure actions beyond our already significant accomplishments such as the Climate Protection Program.

I have long followed the work of the Oregon Climate Action Commission and one thing has become clear – we need to act more boldly and with greater urgency. We have missed critical GHG reduction goals and need a course correction.

This amendment will allow the citizens of Oregon to confirm their commitment to a healthy environment and climate.

Sincerely,

Rand Schenck