

Submitter: Becky Orf
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28
To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Rebecca (Becky) Orf, Ashland OR
Re: IN SUPPORT OF SJR 28

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Oregon citizens should be provided the opportunity to vote on their right to a clean, healthy environment. I urge you to approve SJR28 and support Oregonian's right to vote on a proposed Oregon Constitutional Amendment establishing the right to a clean and healthy environment.

I lie awake at night worrying about what the future holds for my children, grandchildren, and all future generations. The degradation and pollution of our air, water, and land could severely and negatively impact their lives. I grieve for the potential loss of our trees, plants, and species that I have had the privilege to enjoy, love, and experience—things that might not continue to exist for them.

Oregon's current regulatory system is limited in its effectiveness. It also depends heavily on federal environmental laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Environmental Protection Agency's definitions of toxic levels to regulate our air, water, ecosystems, and climate systems. These bedrock environmental laws could be in severe jeopardy with the current approach against effective environmental protection. It is more important than ever to protect Oregonians' rights to clear air, water, and our environment.

Oregonians' lives and futures depend on a safe and healthy environment. This amendment would allow Oregonians to vote to approve that this key value held by all Oregonians is in our State Constitution. It makes our state and local governments' responsibility to protect Oregonians from human-caused environmental harm explicit in our Constitution. Protecting our communities should be our government's highest priority. This amendment would clear the way for our leaders to do what must be done to protect our lives and futures.

If there is concern about the ability to get out the vote to pass this amendment, please know that I and others are committed to doing everything we can to have Oregon citizens approve the establishment of their right to a clean and healthy environment that will allow all Oregonians to prosper.

Please allow Oregonians to have a say in protecting our water, air, and environment for us, our children, grandchildren, and all future generations: vote to approve and move SJR 28.