

Submitter: Barbara Sklar
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Dear Committee Members,

I am grateful to live in the beautiful state of Oregon. Science tells us that we are facing a climate crisis of enormous consequence to all living creatures and ecosystems on earth. We are threatened with toxic pollutants in the air, compromised watersheds and nitrates in the soil. Oregon communities have been decimated by fire caused by hot summers and drought. We are threatened by the erosion of federal laws that were established to protect the environment such as the Clean Air Act. Agencies such as the EPA are now led by people who do not believe in climate change and are allied with the powerful business interests.

We need to explicitly establish in our State Constitution that the residents of Oregon have a right to a healthy environment. The State of Oregon must do its own part to protect its residents by amending its Constitution to proactively address this issue. The Oregon Climate Action Commission's Roadmap stated that Oregon needs to be more ambitious to reach its climate goals. This amendment would allow us to successfully litigate in the courts to reach these goals. We owe it to ourselves and to our children. We also owe it to our beautiful state's forests, deserts, valleys, mountains and coast and to all the beautiful life that resides in them.