

Submitter: Michelle Gregory
On Behalf Of: The Worthy Jacob Farm
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Testimony in favor of SJR 28-1, Michelle Gregory

I am sharing my support for SJR 28-1 as a mother, a community planner, a business owner, a granger, a shepherd and an Oregonian. I have been working with communities around growth and change and managing the impact of such, for many years. In that time, I have helped develop train lines, roads, and bridges, and helped to redevelop worn down neighborhoods, main streets, school facilities and parks systems. I have learned how very stretched our public budgets and investment portfolios truly are. I also raise a conservation stock of endangered sheep in the Columbia River National Scenic Area, where I try to thread the needle of small scale agriculture on the daily.

All of these things I have done because in my lifetime, it would seem the decks have stacked up exponentially against the farmer, the forester, the flora and fauna; and the natural resources that we all have a responsibility to steward, for our children's children. It has become apparent to me through several boom-and-bust cycles of a techno globalization - that, try as we might, we cannot entrust dire climate problems to privatized cure. It's not working. Places are gutted and wasted while the plants, animals, and people go extinct and pay the price. We do not tax or fine our polluters enough to inspire creative reform nor do we incent them enough to opt for responsible stewardship. This is not how responsible global citizens protect their shared investment.

Because I believe our economies perform better when they are in harmony with local watersheds, foodsheds, viewsheds, and fibersheds, I believe we must establish a stronger judicial path to protect these habitats. Under the current administration our government branches are under assault from within, and we must engage with all the tools available. Oregon's land use system has proven that we are capable of rational, fair growth that prioritizes local economies and ecologies. The courts are being tested like never before and this is no time to sideline the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil we sew for sustenance. We are well equipped to make progress on this front and we owe it to those who are more vulnerable.

Thank You,
Michelle Gregory
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