

Submitter:	Cindy Bethell
On Behalf Of:	Third Act Oregon
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SJR28

Legislative Testimony for the Oregon Environmental Rights Amendment

Chair Jama, members of the committee,

My name is Cindy Bethell, and I am here today as a proud Oregonian and a supporter of SJR 28-1, the Environmental Rights Amendment. I was born and grew up in this state. My dad owned a logging company for nearly 50 years and so I grew up fishing and hunting and surrounded by its forests, rivers, and coastline, which shaped my deep love for our natural environment.

Oregon has long been a leader in environmental stewardship, but we face growing threats—from wildfires to pollution—that put our natural resources and communities at risk. A constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment ensures that our laws reflect the values we hold dear and will protect future generations.

This amendment is not just about preserving nature—it's about protecting public health, strengthening our economy, and ensuring that environmental justice applies to all Oregonians, regardless of zip code or background. Our right to a livable environment should be as fundamental as our right to free speech or due process.

In conclusion I will add that for 10 years I worked in Washington D.C., first at the Environmental Protection Agency and the last four years in the U.S. Senate. Given the politics, EPA was trying with one hand tied behind its back to protect the environment. Today in Washington it's far worse so protecting Oregon's natural environment is up to us. We cannot depend on the federal government.

I urge you to support this amendment and affirm that every Oregonian deserves a clean and healthy place to live. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cindy Bethell
Corvallis