

Submitter: Erich Reeder  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Letter in Support of Oregon's Right to a Healthy Environment SJR28-1

My name is Erich Reeder and as a native and lifelong Oregonian, I fully support passage of the Right to a Healthy Environment bill SJR28-1. In my 50+ years growing up and living in southwestern Oregon, I have witnessed many changes to our communities, our economies, and our ways of living, and it is clear to me that the health and well-being of all these things is intimately connected to the health of our shared environment. Indeed, this is so fundamental—healthy water, air, and soil—to our shared health and happiness, that it justly qualifies as a fundamental right we all have as Oregonians and therefore must be explicitly written as a fundamental right into our constitution.

As the population of Oregon continues to grow, as our communities, economies, and ways of living continue to evolve, it is vitally important that our state government prioritize and prevent threats to the health and safety of our shared environment. This amendment will allow our state agencies to do just that and proactively deal with proposed threats before costly damage and health impacts occur, which is what happens now. Furthermore, because of the limited effectiveness of Oregon's current system, we largely rely on federal environmental laws to regulate our air, water, and ecological systems. By amending our constitution with the Right to a Healthy Environment, as proposed, Oregon will take the destiny of our future environment into our own hands.

Moreover, this amendment can only be used to protect public health and safety, and this should rightfully be the unfailing aim of our elected representatives. Therefore, I urge you to move this bill forward. Allow us to vote on it. Let Oregonians determine our own environmental future.

Thank you,  
Erich Reeder