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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

The health and safety of Oregonians are threatened by toxic pollutants in the air, water and soil and by climate change. By updating our constitution, and our rights, our state government can protect us and future generations against the greatest threats we face today. Passing the RTHE amendment will give agencies and their lawyers the power to proactively address threats to our health and safety. The current system limits them to waiting for a public outcry before addressing urgent environmental threats – a recipe for continuous disasters. In addition to the limited effectiveness of Oregon’s current regulatory system, 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 new administration’s general approach against effective environmental protection.