

TO: Senate Committee On Rules

RE: Support of SJR 28 Constitutional Right to a Healthy Environment

DATE: 03/25/25

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Committee On Rules,

My name is Maya Ryley, and I live in Eugene when I'm not in Salem attending Willamette University where I'm working towards a degree in Sociology and English. As a born and raised Oregonian I've witnessed the beauty of this state, with the magnificent Douglas Fir, the roaring Willamette River, gorgeous mountains, and clean skies. I get to enjoy this beautiful and healthy state, so do you and so should everyone else, which is why I support **SJR 28**.

We might think this beautiful state is a fundamental right, however, that's not true. There is no law that protects this seemingly innate right. **SJR 28** works towards establishing this truth that everyone should have a right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. More specifically, clean water, clean air, thriving ecosystems, and a more stable climate.

SJB 28 prioritizes the safety and health of children as well as our future. A future that is looking more scary and dangerous every day because of the increase in climate crises. However, by establishing an environmental justice and long-term policy perspective, **SJR 28** works to protect our environment and health now in addition to our resilience in the future.

Most importantly, **SJB 28** allows the people's voices to be heard on this fundamental and timely right. Instead of forcing this amendment through the rigorous and time-consuming process of collecting signatures, it allows for the people's voices to be heard immediately. It gives the opportunity and makes it accessible for the people to exercise their civil right to vote to protect their own environment and health.

I implore you to support **SJB 28** and give me and my community the opportunity to vote for the right to a healthy environment.

Thank you for your time and support,

Maya Ryley