

Submitter:

Gary Parks

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR28

I have had the pleasure and privilege of living in Oregon for a number of years, and being able to enjoy its beauty. When I travel to different locations in the States, or different countries, I often talk about the mountains, the forests, the coastlines, the valleys and highlands -- and how lucky I am to be able to live in such a place. I earned my MBA here in Eugene. My children were born here, and also some of my grandchildren. Yet this wonderful environment can be fragile and too easily exploited, so needs the stewardship of the populace and the explicit backing of the government to state a common goal for all Oregonians.

Wherever there are people living and working and creating communities, there are inevitable trade-offs with how the land is used. But as people sharing the space, everyone deserves, and their health and well-being requires, clean air and water and soil -- and their souls need to experience beauty and the wonders of their natural surroundings. Putting a healthy environment at the heart of every discussion, and the rights of all of us to expect and enjoy such, will guide the solutions to building and expanding communities, creating new industries and enterprises. and balancing work and recreation to minimize damage to the land, emphasize creative problem-solving, and avoid externalizing the effects on the environment when making business decisions.

I am in support of amending the Oregon State Constitution to include a specific statement that guards the rights of all citizens to enjoy a clean, safe environment and make that a guiding tenet for decisions where it comes into play.