



Senate Committee on Rules
March 26, 2025
Oregon Farm Bureau Opposes SJR 28

Oregon Farm Bureau (“OFB”) is the state’s largest general agriculture organization, representing over 6500 family farms and ranches that produce more than 220 agricultural commodities. Our members utilize all farming methods including organic, conventional, regenerative, biotech, and even no-tech. Oregon Farm Bureau urges voters to reject a proposed amendment to the state's constitution that is meant to guarantee the right to a clean environment.

What does the ‘right to a clean environment’ mean?...an endless stream of lawsuits against family farms and ranches in Oregon.

SJR 28 puts the courts in the driver’s seat, allowing them to shape public policy for agriculture, forestry, manufacturing, transportation, among other sectors.

Under SJR 28, farmers could face **new legal challenges** from anyone who disagrees with their farm practices, undermining science-based environmental regulations already in place in Oregon. Oregon already has a robust regulatory framework to support worker health and safety, pesticide registration and usage, livestock operations, clean fuels, water rights, water quality, etc. SJR 28 creates unnecessary legal risk for rural, working people who earn a living growing food or fiber.

SJR 28 also puts right-to-farm protections in jeopardy, essentially elevating ‘clean environment’ claims above the right-to-farm. Right-to-farm protections are a tenet for Oregon agriculture and exist in all 50 states. This law protects growers from court decisions based on customary noises, smells, dust, or other nuisances associated with farming. The proposed clean environment amendment could open new legal avenues for people who could sue over clean air, water, and other customary ag practices that are currently covered by right-to-farm. OFB believes this could have an outsized impact in shaping public policy for family farmers and ranchers by throwing many tough questions around land use, animal care, and crop protection tools to the legal system.

SJR 28 gives the courts greater control to decide what is a 'healthful environment' and diminishes the public’s voice and the legislative and regulatory processes that set public policy.

OFB urges the committee to vote no on this misguided approach.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LK", is positioned above the contact information.

Contact: Lauren Kuenzi
lkuenzi@oregonfb.org