



RE: Support for SJR 28 – Protecting the Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

On behalf of the [Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition](#), and our thousands of supporters and members across the state, **I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 28 (SJR 28)**, which would enshrine in the Oregon Constitution the fundamental right of all people—including children and future generations—to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. This resolution recognizes that Oregon's public natural resources belong to all people, and that it is the state's responsibility to act as a trustee to conserve and maintain them for present and future generations.

Oregon's diverse natural resources are among our most valuable assets, providing clean air, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and a stable climate. These resources are not only essential to public health, safety, and human well-being—but also to the economic and cultural vitality of our communities. By recognizing environmental rights as a fundamental human right, SJR 28 ensures that every Oregonian is entitled to the benefits of a healthy environment, free from the threat of pollution and ecosystem degradation.

This amendment strengthens Oregon's commitment to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss—two of the greatest challenges facing our state and planet at large. By embedding this right within the state constitution, SJR 28 guarantees that environmental protections cannot be easily weakened by shifting political winds or partisan interests. This measure provides long-term stability and accountability, ensuring that Oregon remains a leader in environmental stewardship.

Moreover, SJR 28 establishes a critical enforcement mechanism, allowing individuals to seek relief if state action or inaction threatens public health or safety. By providing legal standing for Oregonians to protect their right to a healthy environment, this amendment reinforces the state's fiduciary duty to safeguard public resources against substantial impairment.

Our responsibility to future generations is clear. Without constitutional protections, our ability to protect Oregon's air, water, and ecosystems remains vulnerable to short-term political and economic pressures. Enshrining these rights in the Oregon Constitution affirms our commitment to sustainability and justice for all people—who collectively depend on the health of our environment.

For these reasons, I urge you to support SJR 28. This resolution is a critical step toward ensuring that Oregon's natural resources are held in public trust and preserved for future generations. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Annie Merrill
Marine Conservation Manager
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition