

Submitter: Gordon Molitor
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am writing to support SJR 28, which proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to establish a fundamental right to a clean, safe and healthy environment.

This amendment is necessary as, according to the *Cherniak v. Oregon* Decision at Oregon Supreme Court (2020), the Oregon constitution only protects navigable waters fall under the public trust doctrine, leaving land, air, groundwater, and other resources unprotected. The ruling highlights a major gap in Oregon law and regulations: courts have refused to recognize the state's duty to protect critical natural resources and state agencies lack a general mandate to provide a healthy environment.

SJR28-1 explicitly includes public trust doctrine protections for all natural resources and a stable climate. Enshrining these rights in the constitution guarantees that Oregon's natural resources are protected for future generations.

Please refer this proposed amendment to a vote of the people.

Thank you for your consideration and for your difficult and hard work.

Gordon Molitor
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