

Submitter: David Medford
On Behalf Of: St. Luke Lutheran Climate Justice Ministry
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

My name is David Medford from Tigard , OR . I am a strong supporter of SJR 28 , the Right to a Healthy Environment . I retired in 2014 after walking a US Postal Route for 31 years , year-round ,in all types of weather . I never experienced 114 degree heat or suffocating wildfire smoke that people who work outside increasingly face every year now , God help them . Our State , of which I have enjoyed and love every corner of , should be self-motivated to prevent harm to our air, water, ecosystems, and must take faster actions on climate change . We need SJR referred to Oregon voters because it is a preventable tool to improve the oversight and regulation of industry by our State government . There should be no such thing as a right to pollute . In 2020 , when the Oregon Supreme Court ruled against Oregon's youth and our collective futures in Chernaik v Oregon , they stated that Oregon's land, air, groundwater, and other resources are without permissible standing, having no constitutional protections . That ruling highlights a major gap in Oregon law . Our Supreme Court has refused Oregon's absolute duty to protect critical natural resources. There is no fiscal impact for referring SJR -28 , this Right To a Healthy Environment , for a future vote by all Oregonians to decide . Protecting our health and safety from environmental threats must not be left to whims of politics . Every person , including children and future generations , deserves access to clean water and air , to live free from smoke/fires and other effects of climate change and to be able to continue to peruse our livelihoods if we are doing no harm . Where states have adopted similar language there has been no abuse via frivolous lawsuits to clog the courts . Lastly , my 31 year-old daughter is at this very moment agonizing over whether our not to bring children into a world threatened by increasing , certain climate disasters . That breaks my heart and it should break all of your hearts as well . Thanks , David Medford