

Submitter:

Andrew Simrin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR28

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

I am a lifelong Oregonian and fierce supporter of a more sustainable environment that is healthy and supportive of all life now and into the future.

I support SJR28 with -1 amendments, and urge your support as well.

Everyone's lives and futures depend on a safe and healthy environment. This amendment puts this key value, that all Oregonians hold, into our State constitution, when referred and approved by the voters.

I have very young nieces that I am concerned for, for their access, or lack thereof, to fundamental rights to a healthy environment.

Passing the RTHE amendment will give agencies and their lawyers the power to proactively address threats to our health and safety.

Many recent changes in federal environmental laws are impacting citizens ability to breathe clean air (Clean Air Act) or drink/swim/fish in clean water (Clean Water Act) and public input process (NEPA). I frequently engage with these laws to help protect the environment, but these laws are not enough to ensure a healthy environment for all.

The right to a healthy environment is something that we need to acknowledge as a right, and referring this to the voters to amend the constitution is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your support of SJR28-1.