

Submitter: THOMAS KARWAKI
On Behalf Of: University Park Neighborhood Association Board
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Thomas Karwaki, On Behalf of University Park Neighborhood Association Board
The Board of the University Park Neighborhood Association strongly supports SJR 28 and urges the Committee to pass it to the full Senate.

University Park is a neighborhood in North Portland that has TWO Superfund sites and numerous brownfields.

Home to the University of Portland Pilots, the neighborhood was developed starting in the 1880s and 1890s on the Willamette Bluff adjacent to the Willamette River. The neighborhood overlooks Swan Island's shipyards and downtown Portland and is a vibrant community of about 9,000 residents.

The McCormick & Baxter Superfund site was a giant creosote operation that produced most of the power and telephone poles in the Pacific Northwest after World War 2. It is located entirely in the University Park neighborhood. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the US Environmental Protection Agency spent about \$90 million (mainly from Oregon taxpayers) starting in the 1990s to remediate the site which is on the banks of the Willamette River. Twenty years after it was fully contained and remediated – the 40 acre site still is off-limits to the public.

The Portland Harbor Superfund site is partly in University Park. All of the two plus miles of the Willamette River's banks in the neighborhood are in the Superfund site. After 15 years of data collection and planning, in-water remediation efforts have yet to begin. The only portion of the Willamette river banks that is remediated and that provides limited access is that now owned by the University of Portland which cleaned it up and uses the land for athletic fields, a boat house, a small research facility and a campus heating plant.

So University Park is a neighborhood greatly impacted by past environmental damage caused by humans, particularly in the 20th Century.

It is also home to some of the last of the Bluff's native species of majestic oaks and Willamette Blvd which in 2025 will be reconfigured into a low-speed, multi-modal pedestrian and bicyclist-friendly corridor.

SJR 28 refers to the voters an amendment to the Oregon Constitution that provides a right to a clean environment independent of any Federal regulation or standard. This allows Oregon to protect its lands and resources for its residents for future generations. It builds on the tradition of Oregon innovations such as making its Pacific coast beaches a highway thereby providing public access.

Please pass SJR 28 and refer it to the people of Oregon.

Thomas Karwaki

Chair, University Park Neighborhood Association