

March 26, 2025

Re: Please support SJR 28, giving Oregonians the tools to hold government agencies accountable for a clean, safe, and healthy environment

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Rules Committee Members,

I live on Oregon's coast with my husband, and we have family across the state. We are simply asking you to allow Oregon voters to decide whether to approve a state constitutional right of all Oregonians to a "clean, safe, and healthy environment". I know you have before you compelling testimony about the importance of a healthy environment to our public health and health care costs, our future economy, our natural resources and ecosystems. We need a clean, safe, and healthy natural world in order for our families and communities to thrive.

A legislator recently said to me that SJR 28 is a nice statement but won't affect policy. Respectfully, this misses the importance of SJR 28 as a tool in holding government agencies accountable for implementing the policies that are supposed to, e.g., protect our health from pollutants in the water and air. SJR 28 is a pro-democracy tool that will empower citizens and increase public engagement and transparency in developing, implementing, and enforcing policies to assure we actually have clean drinking water, food that is not contaminated by pollutants, good air quality, and healthy ecosystems essential for sustainable use of our natural resources so important to our economy. Oregon's environmental regulatory framework is heavily dependent on the network of federal statutes and EPA regulations and enforcement that we can not pretend are not being gutted by the current administration. SJR 28 will help assure that as citizens we can take steps to act where the government has not or cannot protect our health, our future economy, and our natural world.

SJR 28 is a game-changer that we would be remiss not to adopt for Oregon and its families and communities.

Laura Allen  
Seaside, Oregon