

Submitter: Matthew Albertson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

My name is Matthew D Albertson, resident of Tigard. I'm writing to express my support for Senate Joint Resolution 28-1 (SRJ 28-1), proposing an amendment establishing the right to a healthy, sustainable environment on Oregon's next ballot. The environmental values of Oregon heavily influence my own writing (examples published in "The Cardinal Anthology: Vol. 2") and are a major reason I continue to call this state home.

I believe that enshrining the right to a healthy environment in our constitution is both morally correct and addresses practical necessity. Whereas provisions in Oregon's constitution, such as Article XI-H does authorize the state to make bonds for pollution control, SJR 28-1 builds on this legacy by acknowledging that the right to a clean, healthy environment is not just a matter of infrastructure or policy, but a fundamental right to Oregonians, providing clarity and certainty in Oregon's priorities as a state.

SJR 28-1 emphasizes equitable protection and restoration of environmental rights for all, prioritizing the safety and health of children and future generations. Furthermore, there's a clear mechanism for enforcement in section 3 of the joint resolution. Similar amendments in states like Pennsylvania, which this amendment is modeled after, have not seen a slew of frivolous lawsuits fallow after passage.

In short, I urge the committee to pass this joint resolution and put the proposed amendment before Oregon voters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Matthew D Albertson
Tigard, Oregon