

Submitter: Sophie Els
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network, regarding SJR 28, which makes our state and local governments' responsibility to protect Oregonians from human-caused environmental harm explicit in our Constitution.

Farmers and ranchers have been living on the frontlines of climate change, experiencing extreme weather events first and worst. More frequent and intense extreme weather events like heat domes, drought, floods, and wildfire conditions are increasingly putting Oregon's farms and ranches at risk.

OrCAN was formed by hundreds of farmers who want strong climate policy. The farmers in our network are working to reduce their emissions through practices like reduced tillage, cover cropping, and rotational grazing.

OrCAN supports the State's efforts to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. Unrestrained GHG emissions threaten Oregon's farms, forests, and fisheries in the next few decades. Farmers and ranchers are prepared to withstand and navigate weather impacts, but increasing disasters are threatening their viability.

Oregon's food systems and producers depend on a safe and healthy environment. This amendment puts this key value, that all Oregonians hold, into our State constitution. Please approve SJR 28-1.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.