

Submitter: Cheyenne Herlandstein
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Chair Jama, members of the committee, thank you for hearing testimony today. And thank you for allowing written testimony for those of us who were there but didn't get the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Cheyenne Herlandstein and I live in Hillsboro. As a science educator and environmental educator, I've worked for the past 17 years to raise our youth to think critically, to value Earth's natural resources, but beyond an extractive view, to understand that the environment is not just the place we get stuff from, it is first and foremost simply where we live. Of course we all need a healthy home to lead healthy lives. There is ample data spanning decades and decades that indicates the connection between polluted air and lung diseases, between polluted water and a host of illnesses.

After years of facilitating climate change education in the classroom, I can hardly express to you the powerlessness and overwhelm our children are feeling in the face of the climate crisis. Climate anxiety is a very real problem that leads to an inability to act. It is a gross failure to advocate to educate our children about climate change without strong, immediate legislation to protect that environment. We must take action to do our part to make it different for them, to empower them to ensure a healthy environment for their future. It's not enough to only educate youth so they'll understand they're inheriting an enormous, threatening crisis from their grandparents' and parents' generations, and have some ideas about how to start addressing it, and doing so without the support of this clear and meaningful amendment is cruel. Our children are suffering from climate anxiety and a foreshortened sense of future. We must stand for our children's right to a healthy environment, and provide a way forward for their future, and for their children and well beyond. Please support SJR28.