

Submitter: Kimberly Stein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Good afternoon, distinguished committee members. My name is Kim Stein. I have a master's degree in Data Science and a master's in Health Promotion and Education. I am currently a Data Scientist working with data in the healthcare sector. I reside in Hillsboro, OR. I am testifying in support of SJR28. I was at the public hearing in person, but was not called to speak.

Aside from protecting this environment for our future generations, money is a concern. As far as economics is concerned, a debate is not necessary. People who are fortunate enough to be able to will leave the area if there isn't a healthy environment for them to live in. Those who are able to leave take their tax dollars, businesses, and wealth with them. This affects the budget and economy of the state. Those who aren't able to leave, those who are already marginalized in so many ways, will continue to take the brunt of the negative effects. In that sense, this is also a social justice issue.

I say this as someone who left a state (Utah) that was not working to provide cleaner air for its residents. As a health science educator, I took students on a field trip to an anatomy lab where we examined the lungs of non-smokers living in the poor air quality along the Wasatch Front of Utah their entire lives, and their lungs were full of black dots from air pollution. We all had assumed that they were the lungs of people who had smoked cigarettes, not just the lungs of citizens of the valley. I watched the students faces as they realized that they likely were experiencing the same health effects. We all know the health of the environment we live in has a direct impact on our physical health. If the air outside is unhealthy, we lose the ability to spend time outside. Being unable to enjoy the outdoors in Oregon would be a shame, to say the least.

I also watched my former students in Utah lose hope for their future. They are paying attention to what is happening, and students are watching what the adults in their lives are willing to do to help fight for the future. If future generations lose hope because the adults are not prioritizing the health of future generations, we have already lost the battle to save our environment.

Thank you for your time.