

Submitter: Julie Christensen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28
Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee

My name is Julie Christensen, and I support SJR-28-1. Although Oregon has set some targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the scientific consensus is that these targets are way too modest, given the acceleration of climate change and its devastating impact on the earth's natural systems and on human health and well-being. Oregon needs a Constitutional amendment that would guarantee a clean and healthy environment for all Oregonians. Having these environmental rights enshrined in the Constitution would give clearer guidance to state agencies to bring their policies in alignment with Oregon's climate goals, give greater predictability of guidelines in the future, and allow planning for preventive measures to protect our environment, rather than the reactive and patchwork approach we've had until now. Addressing these climate concerns now with a strong Constitutional amendment will save the enormous future costs of inaction. It is time to take the long view that protects current and all future generations of Oregonians.