

Submitter: Mikayla May  
On Behalf Of: The future of Oregon's communities  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Mikayla May, and I am a Sophomore at Caldera High School in Bend, as well as a regional leader with Our Future Oregon, Oregon's youth leadership network for climate action and climate justice. I am writing in strong support of SJR28.

I have lived my whole life in Oregon, and I have had the chance to experience the beautiful variety of ecosystems and landscapes in our great state. A lot of communities in Oregon, including Bend, where I live, rely on the ecotourism industry for our local economy. This industry includes tourism for activities such as skiing, kayaking, floating the river, and hiking. If we don't step up to protect our water and fragile ecosystems from further pollution and harm, many communities like mine who rely on ecotourism for our local economies will suffer. This would discourage youth from staying in their communities, including high school students who currently work in or plan to work in the ecotourism industry after graduation.

Protecting our environment also protects our state's economy, including industries such as agriculture, and the ecotourism industry. If crops cannot grow, snow cannot fall, if rivers are too polluted for people to swim, float and fish in, if the landscapes we as Oregonians enjoy are inaccessible because of pollution and climate change, how can any of these industries survive, let alone thrive? Without clean air and water, and healthy ecosystems, the industries that support much of the communities that make up our great state can no longer function.

By implementing a right to a healthy environment in our state's constitution, we can protect our communities from pollution and environmental harm, not put them at risk.

For my generation's future, and the future of Oregon's communities, I strongly urge you to support SJR-28

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony, it is a great privilege to have my voice be heard,

Mikayla May  
Bend, Oregon  
Our Future Regional Leader