

I am writing in support of Oregon's SJR 28, the right to a safe and healthy environment. Many governments in the US and around the world have already recognized this most fundamental right.

A global argument:

In July of 2022 the United Nations General Assembly passed a formal resolution recognizing the "right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment" as a fundamental human right, a right so fundamental that without its protection all other rights are at risk.

The UN called on national, regional and local governments around the world to respect and protect that right and to adopt actions in support of it. Oregon's proposed right to a safe and healthy environment is an act in support of that resolution.

A local argument:

The Oregon Health Authority, in June of 2022, issued a report on "Climate Change and Youth Mental Health" that described Oregon's youth mental health crisis resulting from children's and youth's distress about both the climate crisis itself and the failure of governments at all levels to do anything significant to address that crisis

Oregon's adoption of a constitutional amendment in support of everyone's right to a safe and healthy environment will go a long way toward protecting the human rights of all Oregonians and toward protecting the health and human rights of Oregon's young people.

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Author, *Youth Climate Courts: How You Can Host a Human Rights Trial for People and Planet* (Routledge, 2022)