

Submitter: Jonathan Davies  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Dear Chair Jama and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

As a parent, concerned citizen and former environmental science educator I have a deep concern for Oregon's environment. As such, I am strongly asking you to pass SJR-28, "The Right to a Healthy Environment". The reasonable and affordable measures written into this legislation are not only good for the ecological services they preserve but also for the health and safety of all Oregonians, in all its communities.

If passed by the voters, it would require state and local level governments to act to preserve and protect the health and well-being of all Oregonians. The RTHE amends our constitution to explicitly require government to protect Oregonians from human-caused pollution and harm. Pollution is no longer simply the smell of a hog farm or water pollution from tanneries. No, the risks to our climate and environment by human-caused pollution are much greater and deserve a much stronger and clear actions to counter or prevent their harm.

Our current system relies upon an after-the-fact public outcry forcing the Legislature to act. The RTHE mandates that the government take action to prevent environmental pollution and harm from occurring as part of a normal part of industry. The costs associated with this are minimal, when compared to the cost and time needed for clean-up. An ounce of prevention...

There is so very much more that I could say in support of SJR-28 but I will keep my words short out of respect for the volumes of testimony you are receiving. I simply implore you to carefully consider this legislation and pass it in support of all Oregonians, now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Davies