

Submitter: John Perona

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SJR28. I write in SUPPORT of the bill.

I am Professor (emeritus) of Chemistry at Portland State University and author of the climate change science/policy text for laypersons titled From Knowledge to Power, which has been widely circulated in Oregon.

As a strong supporter of intergenerational equity, I support this bill because the amendment would give highest priority to the safety and health of children and future generations. I am also enthusiastic about the fact that the bill further provides that any person may invoke this amendment to obtain equitable relief against state action or inaction that harms the environment. The bill directs courts to view laws and regulations that provide for a healthy environment, including climate, as compelling state interests. It's about time.

Although the amendment would not enact any specific mandates, it would provide an important backstop to safeguard the people's health and safety against actions that would harm the environment and/or worsen climate change. The Right to a Healthy Environment has been enacted in other states, where it has been effective in furthering this aim.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this bill.