

Submitter: Lauren Isaac
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28
Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, Senators Golden, Manning and Thatcher,

My name is Lauren Isaac and I live in Portland. I am writing to urge you to bring forward SJR28, the Right to a Healthy Environment Constitutional Amendment Referral. This amendment brings our Constitution in line with the needs of Oregonians, the need to protect and prevent environmental harm.

Oregon's constitution was written when the extent of threats to our environment and the risks posed by climate change were not understood. As such, it does not encourage proactive efforts to protect our environment. State efforts such as the Climate Protection Plan have been delayed again and again while our climate heats up, people die in excessive heat, wildfires burn larger and larger swaths of the state, and other environmental degradation continues. We saw in *Cherniak v. Oregon* that courts did not find a constitutional requirement in Oregon for the state to protect the environment. The time to close this loophole is now.

Montana and Hawaii have passed Constitutional amendments similar to SJR28 that have been upheld in the courts.

Let's give ourselves the tools to protect our beautiful home. Please help bring SJR28 to Oregonians for a vote.

Thank you,
Lauren Isaac