

Submitter: Emily Heilbrun

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

I am strongly in support of this amendment to the Oregon constitution. Oregonians' lives and futures depend on a safe and healthy environment. This amendment puts this key value, that all Oregonians hold, into our State constitution. If passed by the voters, the State government will be required to do a better job to prevent environmental threats to the health and safety of Oregonians.

The bill makes our state and local governments' responsibility to protect Oregonians from human-caused environmental harm EXPLICIT in our Constitution. Protecting our communities should be our highest government's highest priority. The Right to a Healthy Environment clears the way for our leaders to do what must be done to protect our lives and futures.

Oregon's current system waits to address environmental threats until public pressure forces the Legislature to act. With huge threats looming, this is like driving at night without headlights. Preventing environmental disasters is much less costly than cleaning up after disasters.