

Submitter: James Adriance

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support the proposed constitutional amendment establishing the Right to a Healthy Environment - SJR 28-1 Right To a Healthy Environment. This measure is essential to protecting the health, safety, and future of all Oregonians.

Despite Oregon's history of environmental leadership, we are falling behind in addressing the growing threats of climate change, air and water pollution, and ecological degradation. Diesel pollution alone contributes to hundreds of premature deaths annually, while thousands of miles of waterways remain impaired. Wildfires, fueled by rising temperatures and drought, continue to destroy forests and communities. These dangers are real, urgent, and worsening.

A constitutional amendment would create a fundamental, enforceable right to clean air, safe drinking water, and thriving ecosystems. It would give state agencies the authority they need to take proactive measures to protect public health and natural resources, rather than waiting until the damage is done. Unlike policies that shift with political changes, this amendment would establish a lasting commitment to environmental protection.

Access to clean air and water should not be left to chance. Oregonians deserve a future where our health and environment are safeguarded, not sacrificed. Please act boldly by supporting this ballot referral to enshrine the Right to a Healthy Environment in Oregon's Constitution.

Thank you.