

Submitter: Gary Sumrak
On Behalf Of: Gary and Janice Sumrak
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

Dear representative members of both the House and Senate, I'm in full support of SJR28. I grew up as a child until the age of 14 in Youngstown, Ohio. Youngstown was a major steel producer (1900s) and relied on burning coal in blast furnaces to melt down iron ore in the production of steel. Needless to say, our town was a complete environmental disaster. Our home was even heated by a coal furnace and in winter as a child I had to learn how to stoke the furnace with coal at night since my dad was working the night shift on the railroad. When Spring finally came around, we had to wash all the walls in the house to remove the buildup of soot.

Back during that time, no one thought of or realized the consequences of what was happening to our environment. I now only wish my grandfathers would have been conscience of the negative aspects of the production of steel and brought it to the attention of their legislatures back then. Our local rivers (Mahoning) and the (Cuyahoga) which runs through Cleveland and into Lake Erie was so polluted and toxic that there were several self-igniting fires and pretty much killed all living organism!

In 1970 President Nixon signed into law the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and in 1972 Congress passed the Clean Water Act (CWA). So, prior to the CWA, we had 70 plus years of unregulated pollution. I realize from a political standpoint that enacting laws that affect everyone's lives takes time. But now it's 2025. Scientifically, we are now light years away from those days. We as adults, with our current knowledge, owe it to our children and their children to provide them with a clean, safe, and healthy environment.

Please pass SJR28 and let the final decision on this up to the Oregon voters.

Thanks – Gary Sumrak