

Submitter:

Mary Buck

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SJR28

I am writing in support of SJR -28, proposing an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to establish a fundamental right to a clean, safe and healthy environment. In recent years, we have witnessed issues due to climate change in Oregon that would have been unthinkable in previous decades. The fact that we have had air quality so unhealthy as to warn residents in Portland and Gresham not to go out of their homes is an indication of how poorly we are taking care of our environment. For too long, we have let businesses use our resources while destroying our air and have used the excuse that it is the price we need to pay to be prosperous. We degrade the environment with no thought to future generations. There is a saying among indigenous peoples that says, "Do no harm to the seventh generation." If we want a livable place for our children and grandchildren, we must heed this advice and take action now.