

Submitter: Kathleen Thomes-Rhew  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28

I strongly support this referral for Oregon. As a retired public health nurse, I served both Multnomah and Clackamas Counties for over 25 years and saw firsthand what unhealthy environmental conditions can do to both children and adults. The population I served were low income, many of which were on the Oregon Health Plan. A large percentage of our patients were also new to the country and did not speak English. Unfortunately, it is often this population that is most often subject to unhealthy living environments with little recourse for change. This can result in chronic health conditions which tax our state's economy, not to mention the quality of life for the persons affected. Amending the constitution to guarantee a healthy environment for all Oregonians could greatly make a difference, not only for the least advantaged among us, but also for my own grandchildren as we move toward a greener future for our state. Let's move forward to making Oregon an even healthier place for all of us.