

Submitter: Priscilla Bradley
On Behalf Of: SJR 28 Right To a Healthy Environment
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR28
RE: SJR 28-1 Right to a Healthy Environment

The U.S. has contributed 25% of the human released CO₂ to the earth's Green House Gases (GHG) that is causing our Climate Crisis. Here in Oregon, we currently contribute to this pollution. Our agencies and Legislature have not acted with sufficient urgency to reduce GHG emissions. It is urgent that global GHG emissions be reduced to zero as soon as possible.

Other pollutants are reducing Oregon's water quality. Nitrates, fertilizer runoff, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides are found in our groundwater.

There is environmental habitat destruction and diversity loss in our forest and around our homes.

Presently, our current system in Oregon waits to address environmental threats until public pressure forces the Legislature to act. Prevention of environmental disasters will be far less costly than cleaning up afterward, as well as protecting the health of our citizens and environment beforehand.

As Oregonians, we must accept responsibility by passing the Right To a Healthy Environment Amendment to our State Constitution.

Acting to pass the Right To a Healthy Environment Amendment quickly is timely, as climate change is already causing more severe storms, floods, forest fires, and the inundation of low lying islands and coastal communities. Also, the Trump Administration may put jeopardise current federal laws, such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

We Oregonians value our diverse natural environments for beauty, for recreational opportunities, and as a draw for tourism. Reversing the climate crisis is necessary for continued life as we know it on planet earth.

Please pass the Right To a Healthy Environment Amendment.