## I Support the People of Oregon Having a True and Enforceable Right to Pure Water, Clean Air, a Stable Climate and Healthy Environment

While our Oregon constitution recognizes and protects many important human, civil and political rights – such as our rights to free speech, freedom of religion, property rights and due process – it does not recognize and protect the inalienable rights of all Oregonians to a clean and healthy environment. Passage of an Oregon Green Amendment will raise up our environmental rights to be legally on par with the other human, civil and political rights which are protected from government infringement.

With an Oregon Green Amendment, we will ensure and strengthen environmental protection; we will have a stronger check on government actions that could allow our water, air, soil, climate and critical natural resources to be degraded in dangerous and devastating ways; we will strengthen environmental justice protections and ensure generational environmental protection; we will strengthen the cultural and health values of the environment; we will ensure government is protecting environmental rights equitably regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status; we will be ensuring that informed government decisionmaking is a constitutional pre-requisite to taking action that could infringe upon environmental rights including accounting for the pollution and industrial burdens a community already bears, relevant science, and the of impacts proposed action; and in those instances when these mandates and constitutional environmental rights are infringed upon, we will have strengthened our position for securing needed government action.

Given that we all depend upon pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments to support and sustain our healthy lives and a healthy economy, we, the undersigned, call for the passage of an Oregon Green Amendment to raise up environmental rights to our constitution's Bill of Rights by Amending Article I of our State Constitution to ensure:

The people of Oregon have the right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, recreational and healthful qualities of the environment; and that the state shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.

The state, including each branch, agency and political subdivision, shall serve as trustee of all the natural resources of our state including waters, air, wildlife, fisheries, atmosphere, climate, and natural ecosystems; and that the state shall conserve, protect and maintain these natural resources for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come.

The environmental rights of the people are Oregon are recognized as inherent, indefeasible and self-executing and are among those rights reserved to the people.

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\*For more information visit <u>www.ORGreenAmendment.org</u>.

Please mail or email your completed petitions to: Green Amendments For The Generations 925 Canal Street, Suite 3701 Bristol, PA 19007

or email a scanned copy to <a href="mailto:GAFTG@forthegenerations.org">GAFTG@forthegenerations.org</a>.