



Senator:

My name is Frank Pagurko, and I write to you on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, an economic policy think tank based in Albuquerque. We work to promote the interests of the people of New Mexico through free market policy.

In the interest of New Mexico residents, I strongly urge you to **vote NO** on SJR 3, the “Environmental Rights” resolution. The amendment would create a private right of action for the public to sue over environmental degradation. No one would argue that a cleaner environment is a bad thing, and, luckily, our environment has been improving over the last 40 years. New technology has cut down on pollution and waste, and legislation has been enacted to provide parameters and protect our natural heritage. Unfortunately, SJR 3 implies that even the last several decades of improvement has not been enough. The creation of a private right of action would open the door for numerous lawsuits over any perceived slight or detriment to the environment. The constitutional amendment is dangerously open to interpretation and creates a pathway for overreaching legislation that extends beyond the environmental policy already in place.

SJR 3 is simply not necessary to protect our state’s environment and the natural heritage we pass on to future generations and instead opens the door for numerous negative outcomes, both seen and unseen. It ignores the significant progress already made on improving our environment. Please vote no on SJR 3. Thank you.

Frank Pagurko III