

JANETTE DEAN

Environmental Policy & Human Rights Advocate – MN, WI, CA, NV + Nat'l
Equal Rights Amendment Advocate (2014-Present) – NV, IL, VA, MN + Nat'l.
Caledonia, MN by La Crosse, WI
JanetteNoelle@gmail.com • (507) 500-0142

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House State and Local Government Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 173 “Equality under law provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.”

Dear Chair Klevorn, Vice Chair Huot and Committee Members:

The State of Minnesota ratified the essential Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 26th state to do so on February 8, 1973 and should do all it can to help make the ERA a reality in Minnesota itself as well. Please therefore vote for passage of House File 173 authored by Honorable Representative Kaohly Vang Her and 34 others during this crucial session year and Women’s History Month.

Not one person in Minnesota who believes our constitutional republic is meant to be “one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all” should be satisfied with — nor tolerate — having unequal rights in Minnesota nor our country.

It is certainly every generation’s moral responsibility to help stop the social injustice of our state and national constitution’s failing to protect all of its residents and citizens as well as visitors who are living in or traveling in our state and country. Without the ERA enshrined in state and national constitution, many of the harmful social problems and individual situations that sex discrimination still causes right here in Minnesota and the U.S. will be allowed to continue.

Social justice is defined on the Oxford Reference website as “The objective of creating a fair and equal society in which each individual matters, their rights are recognized and protected, and decisions are made in ways that are fair and honest.” Utilizing ethical human thought as well in its publication, the U.S.-based Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines social justice in a way that also strongly reveals the necessity of the Equal Rights Amendment with its definition of social justice being “a state or doctrine of egalitarianism” and egalitarianism being “1: a belief in human equality especially with respect to social, political, and economic affairs, and 2: a social philosophy advocating the removal of inequalities among people.”

Social justice — plus the willingness to act for it — are indeed essential to human ethics, progress and democracy.

I, therefore, call upon everyone (including all legislators in the Minnesota Legislature) to help each other in many areas of needed social justice, including by helping to pass legislation that will help make equal rights a reality in Minnesota's own constitution and the U.S. constitution.

Sincerely,

Janette Dean

Minnesota-raised Janette Dean is an environmental policy and human rights advocate and organizer who helped Nevada ratify the Equal Rights Amendment as the lead grassroots organizer there from 2014-2017 (see: <https://sites.google.com/view/nevadansfortheera/>) . She currently lives and works in her home state of Minnesota. To see the beginning steps of the Equal Rights Amendment's journey and Nevada's victory to ratification, visit: <https://prezi.com/view/ClzKezQAEDP4lV9dBHb/>.