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Delaware Riverkeeper Joins with High School Teacher to Urge Constitutional Focus on Environmental Rights be Brought into Classrooms

Washington, D.C. – Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, will join with high school teacher David Wood to present at the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences conference at 9 a.m. on June 23 at American University.

The session will focus on how current environmental protection laws are failing, and will encourage teachers to bring a new mindset regarding the environment into their classrooms – one that is focused on healthy environments as a right, not a privilege.

The workshop will be based on van Rossum’s new book titled *The Green Amendment: Securing our Right to a Healthy Environment*, which is soon to be complemented by a proposed curriculum to help bring the book’s messages into classrooms across the state.

“Our children learn all their lives about their constitutional rights to free speech, freedom of religion, to their civil rights, and others, but they don’t learn about their right to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment. That is because these are not rights recognized in states across our nation, with the exception of two states. My goal with the Green Amendment movement, and speaking with the educators at the AESS conference, is to change the constitutional discussion taking place in schools to one that considers why the fundamental right to a healthy environment is not in fact recognized and how and why it is time for a change,” said Maya van Rossum, author of *The Green Amendment*. “I am looking forward to joining with David Wood, a Radnor High School public education school teacher, to talk about this issue and explore how teachers may integrate this concept into science, social studies, history, and civics classrooms.”

van Rossum was an original petitioner in the landmark *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* case, which breathed new life into Pennsylvania’s environmental rights amendment. The victory inspired van Rossum to start The Green Amendment movement. The movement seeks to protect environmental rights for both current and future generations, especially as young people are being increasingly harmed by environmental degradation. At the

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workshop van Rossum and Wood will discuss how teachers, community members, and young people can use the tools in the book to mobilize for constitutional change to protect their environmental rights.

To learn more about the Green Amendment movement and Maya van Rossum, visit mayavanrossum.green.

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.