



**For Immediate Release:**

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**“Green Amendment” Discussion Comes to Milton Public Library**

**Milton, DE** – Environmental leaders and community members will be considering advancing a new strategy for environmental protection on Saturday, October 5 at 12:30pm at the Milton Public Library, one that secures constitutional protection for environmental rights. Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and founder of Green Amendments For the Generations and Maria Payan of Socially Responsible Agricultural Project and Sussex Health & Environmental Network will hold a discussion about whether Delaware should join four other states in considering passage of a Green Amendment to the State constitution.

“Green Amendments” are constitutional protection of environmental rights, enshrined in the bill of rights section of a state constitution. In 2013, van Rossum and her team won a watershed legal victory that secured for Pennsylvania communities a constitutional right to pure water, clean air and a healthy environment. Following the 2013 victory, van Rossum inaugurated the Green Amendment movement, seeking to inspire every state in the nation to pass constitutional Green Amendments.

Maya van Rossum will present about the Green Amendment movement and her book *The Green Amendment, Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment*, followed by a presentation on local environmental issues by Maria Payan. A question & answer session and discussion will follow. Topics will include the current state of environmental protection in Delaware, what threats the environment currently faces in the state, and how a Green Amendment can help.

“Currently Delaware fails to recognize or protect the right of its citizens to clean water and air, a stable climate, or healthy environments. As a result, when permits are granted, laws are passed or environmental issues ignored that result in contaminated water, air, and environments which threaten the health and safety of Delaware communities there is little legal recourse. A Delaware Green Amendment would strengthen the rights and ability of Delaware residents to protect themselves from poor environmental decisions and protections that threaten the health and safety of present and future Delawareans,” said van Rossum.



“The citizens of Delaware need to be leaders in passing a green amendment. We believe every citizen should have the constitutional right to breathe clean air and have drinkable water, regardless of their zip code. We need a movement now to protect the environment and the health of our communities throughout this state,” said Payan.

The event is free to the public and will be held on Saturday October 5th, 2019, 12:30-3:00 pm at the Milton Public Library, 121 Union Street, Milton, DE 19968.

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