



For Immediate Release:

February 1, 2019

Contact:

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188 x102

Maryland Moves to Adopt a Healthy Green Amendment

Annapolis, MD - The State of Maryland is taking measures towards adopting a Healthy Green Amendment for their state, protecting people's rights to a healthy environment. A bill to add a Green Amendment to the state's Constitution was proposed by Representative Stephen Lafferty to the House Environment and Transportation Committee on February 1.

The addition of a Green Amendment to Maryland's constitution, one that recognizes and protects the right to clean water, clean air, a healthy environment and stable climate as an inalienable right will provide a higher level of decision making and care when it comes to the environment. As written, the proposed amendment will ensure that environmental rights are legally protected in the same way we protect other human, civil and political rights fundamental to our civil society – such as the rights to free speech, freedom of religion, due process rights and private property rights.

As the author of **The Green Amendment** and founder of the Green Amendment movement, Maya van Rossum states, "I have looked at every state constitution across the nation and I can tell you that there are only two states with a provision of this kind: Pennsylvania and Montana. The passage of Maryland's proposed Green Amendment would make the state number three in the nation to provide this highest level of protection. Representative Lafferty, who proposed the bill that would advance the amendment, is to be applauded for ensuring that the basic right to access clean water, breathe healthy air, and be supported by healthy environments that will protect species and help prevent droughts and floods, while at the same time advancing good paying jobs and supporting healthy local economies."

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