

*Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Clean Water Action  
American Littoral Society ~ Environment New Jersey  
NJ Highlands Coalition ~ NJ Sierra  
Green Amendments For The Generations initiative*

The State of New Jersey is facing a historic opportunity.

**Please consider passing a resolution to support passage of a New Jersey Green Amendment – giving Constitutional recognition to the rights of all New Jerseyans to Pure Water, Clean Air, and a Healthy Environment.**



**Senators Linda Greenstein, Kip Bateman and Assembly members Pinkin, McKeon and Benson, have proposed **ACR85/SCR134** that ensure the people of New Jersey have the same rights to clean air and water that they already have when it comes to freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, and other bill of rights protections. **A resolution passed and sent by your community would send a powerful message of support.****

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, author of The Green Amendment, and founder of the Green Amendment For The Generations movement would be pleased to speak at an upcoming meeting to answer any questions you might have.



Our rights to free speech, to a free press, to religious freedom, and property rights are among the many fundamental rights guaranteed by our federal and state constitutions. However, across the nation and right here in New Jersey our rights to clean water, clean air, and healthy environments, are not recognized or protected as fundamental rights — even though they are essential to our health and our lives.

ACR85/SCR134 would amend Article I of the New Jersey State Constitution to recognize the Environmental Rights of the people of New Jersey by protecting the “**right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats,**” for “**both present and future generations.**”

According to a Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind Poll, 83% of New Jersey residents believe that the right to clean air and clean water should be protected by the constitution. Support for a constitutional right to a healthy environment runs across all demographics, including republicans and democrats, men and women, whites and non-whites and all age ranges.

Despite this support, New Jersey has NO constitutional provision protecting environmental rights in the state. Through passage of ACR85/SCR 134 we could add the inalienable right to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment to New Jersey's constitution.

**A NJ Green Amendment Will Create Better Decisions by Legislators & Regulators Upfront, and Empower Communities When There is Demonstrated Government Overreach:**

An effective Green Amendment, like the one proposed by ACR85/SCR134 has important environmental justice benefits ensuring government has a legal obligation to treat all people and communities equitably when it comes to protecting their rights to a clean and healthy environment.

The upfront goal of a Green Amendment is to ensure good decision making that results in meaningful environmental protection at the same time business growth, economic growth, and development projects are advanced, while providing a check on government overreach when it is needed.



A sample resolution can be found at: <http://bit.ly/ModelRes4NJGreenAmendment>

If you would like Maya to attend your meeting to further explain the importance of a Green Amendment and answer your questions please contact [molly@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:molly@delawareriverkeeper.org) or phone 215 369 1188 ext 105.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maya K. van Rossum". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Maya K. van Rossum  
the Delaware Riverkeeper

**It's time for New Jersey to protect the rights to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment for present and future generations.**

ACR85/SCR134: bill to amend the state Constitution and enshrine every New Jerseyan's "right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats," and to protect these rights for "both present and future generations."