



GREEN AMENDMENTS  
FOR THE GENERATIONS  
Pure Water. Clean Air. Healthy Environment.



ENVIRONMENTAL  
ADVOCATES OF NEW YORK



DELAWARE  
RIVERKEEPER  
NETWORK™

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**Albany, NY;** New York legislators, in both the state Assembly and Senate, voted for first passage of a proposed amendment to the NY State Constitution that would recognize and protect the inalienable right to clean water, clean air and a healthful environment. The vote count was overwhelmingly in support of passage with senators voting for passage 45 to 17 and the Assembly members voting 110-34.

“This is a historic first step for the people of New York and sets the state as a national leader on the issue of environmental rights. Currently there are only 2 states that recognize and protect the inalienable right to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment on par with other civil, political and human rights; they are Pennsylvania and Montana. In addition to New York, there are Green Amendment proposals in New Jersey, Maryland and West Virginia. With this vote, New York is leading the pack in actually adding the first modern day Green Amendment to its state constitution,” explained Maya van Rossum, founder of Green Amendments For the Generations, as well as being the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Peter M. Iwanowicz of Environmental Advocate of New York, a leader in advancing this proposed legislation, praised the vote by legislators stating: “The New York State Constitution expresses our highest ideals and greatest principles. The fact that today, a right to clean air and water is absent from our Constitution is a glaring omission. The state Legislature has taken the

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first step to correcting this oversight by giving first passage to the Green Amendment that will guarantee New Yorkers the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment.”

New York’s [Green Amendment \(A.2064/S.2072\)](#) is sponsored by Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator David Carlucci. The bill must pass both houses a second time when the next New York Legislature is seated in 2021. If passed, the proposed amendment would be placed on the New York state ballot for the people to vote upon.

Over 40 other states talk about environmental protection in their state constitutions, but only Pennsylvania and Montana protect the rights to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment as self-executing, inalienable and in the Bill of Rights section of the constitution. [New York’s Forever Wild clause is widely applauded for the protections of public lands in the Catskills and Adirondacks, but beyond that provision environmental protection is largely regarded as sound policy, rather than a self-executing right.](#)

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***Green Amendments For The Generations*** seeks to advance the passage and enforcement of Green Amendments that recognize and protect the self-executing, inalienable right of all people to clean water, clean air and a healthy environment in state constitutions across the nation with passage at the federal level as a natural next step. [www.ForTheGenerations.org](http://www.ForTheGenerations.org)

**Delaware Riverkeeper Network** works throughout the four states of the Delaware River watershed (NY, NJ, PA, DE) using advocacy, the law, science and community organizing to champion the rights of all communities to a Delaware River and tributary streams that are free flowing, healthy, and abundant with a diversity of life. [www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org](http://www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org)

**Environmental Advocates of New York's** mission is to protect the air, land, water and wildlife and the health of all New Yorkers. Based in Albany, we monitor state government, evaluate proposed laws, and champion policies and practices that will ensure the responsible stewardship of our environment. We work to support and strengthen the efforts of New York's environmental community to make our state a national leader. [www.eany.org](http://www.eany.org)