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January x, 2021

Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building Rm. 907
Albany, NY 12248

Honorable Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building Rm. 932
Albany, NY 12248

Re: Memorandum in Support A.1368 (*Englebright*)/S.528 (*Jackson*)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY proposing an Amendment to
Article 1 of the Constitution, in Relation to the Right to Clean Air and Water and a Healthful
Environment

Dear Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Hastie:

We write to express our strong support for a second passage of A.1368 (*Englebright*)/S.528 (*Jackson*) that amends Article 1 of the New York Constitution to insert a new Section 19, recognizing the environmental rights of the residents of New York State to clean water, clean air, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate.

Communities across Albany County are being harmed by pollution and contamination of our water, air, and the growing impacts of the current climate crisis. It is time to recognize the rights of the residents of Albany County and New York State to a healthy environment that will drive better government decision-making at all levels of government.

As this new legislative session convenes, New York State should lead the nation once again by putting environmental rights on par with other civil rights and liberties.

It is imperative that the State of New York recognize the basic human right to clean air, water and a healthful environment and detail these in Article 1, Section 19 of the Bill of Rights, of the New York Constitution. If passed the State of New York will join Montana and Pennsylvania to codify environmental values in the state Constitution.

The Albany County Legislature strongly supports bringing our Constitution into the 21st Century, by recognizing and protecting the fundamental rights of all New Yorkers, present and future to a clean and healthy environment.

Sincerely,