WHY FOR THE GENERATIONS PROJECT?

Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution promises a right to pure water, clean air and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment for generations of Pennsylvanians. The Constitution states: “As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.” Other states have constitutional provisions but few are as strong as Pennsylvania’s and many have none.

Across the nation, and even in Pennsylvania, contrary to constitutional provisions and existing laws, governments have allowed environmental harm regardless of the impacts on present and future generations. From coal extraction to shale gas development, the fossil fuel industry has polluted our water, air and land. Deforestation, wildlife displacement and mountain top removal continue to destroy natural ecosystems and the health of our communities. Industries outside the energy sector have exploited our air, water and land for commercial purposes by dumping chemicals, dredging river beds, building dams and levees and over harvesting wild and aquatic life.

Dramatically, in Pennsylvania, on December 19, 2013, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, in the case Robinson Township, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, et.al. v. Commonwealth created a legal framework and opportunity for Pennsylvanians to defend their constitutional right to pure water, clean air and a healthy environment.
To pursue and secure constitutional protection of environmental rights in states across the nation.

To ensure that governments across the nation at the local and state level honor the rights of all people to pure water, clean air and healthy environments in the laws they enact, the decisions they make, and the actions they pursue.

To ensure that the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment is further strengthened in the wake of the PA Supreme Court Decision.

Our right to pure water, clean air and a healthy environment are inherent, indefeasible and fundamental rights retained by the people of all Generations.

There can be no life, liberty or happiness without a healthy environment.

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