

Currently, there is an effort to amend the New York State Constitution by adding one simple sentence: "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment." The bill was born out of the advocacy of communities like Hoosick Falls, Long Island, and Newburgh, where residents want to ensure that other communities have the tools necessary to fight for basic rights when a crisis occurs.

By voting for a resolution supporting the right to clean air and water to the Bill of Rights of the NYS Constitution, the Village of Interlaken will be joining other communities around New York State for healthier futures for us all.

If the NYS bill of rights secures an individual's right to host and play BINGO (see section 9 (2)), then it really should secure a right to clean air and water.

The bill is once again moving in the Assembly where it has been passed with broad and bi-partisan support. It has also moved out of committee in the Senate and sits poised for a vote on the floor.

A resolution by the Village of Interlaken Board of Trustees supporting this amendment, would be simple:

Whereas the Village of Interlaken Board of Trustees supports the right of each resident to clean air and water;

Whereas communities in NYS like Hoosick Falls, Long Island and Newburgh, along with many other communities throughout the United States like Flint, Michigan have suffered poisoned water systems caused by malfeasance or other corrupt decisions by either government and/or private interests;

Whereas the Village of Interlaken, Town of Covert, Seneca County, has a municipal water system that provides clean and healthy water to those in the system;

Be it resolved that we support a New York Environmental Bill of Rights Amendment, Assembly Bill 2064 and Senate Bill 2072, amending Article 1, the Bill of Rights, of the New York State Constitution to insert a new Section 19, recognizing the inalienable and self-executing right of all New Yorkers to clean water, clean air, and a healthful environment.

Be it also resolved, this right be as fundamental as a person's right to freedom of speech and assembly.

Village of Interlaken passed this resolution 4 Yes and 1 no. Passed

March 21, 2019