



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Environmental and Social Justice Advocates Praise Proposal for a Michigan Green Amendment**

**Lansing, Michigan:** Michigan environmental and social justice leaders are applauding a proposal that would add a constitutional right to a clean, safe and healthy environment to the state constitution's Declaration of Rights. The proposed Michigan Green Amendment would constitutionally protect, for all Michiganders, the "inalienable right to a clean and healthy environment, including clean water, air, and soils; balanced ecosystems; a stable climate," and would recognize the duty of all government officials in the state to protect its natural resources for present and future generations. The proposal for a Michigan Green Amendment was announced by State Representative Rachel Hood on April 25, 2024.

The constitutional amendment proposal is already getting strong support from Michigan environmental and community activists who see its potential for transformational environmental protection, environmental justice and for helping to ensure the state does its part in addressing the climate crisis.

"While many believe they have the rights to clean water and air as a result of state and federal laws already in place, that is simply not the case. This amendment will remedy that constitutional and legal oversight and ensure that all state government action is guided by the people's expectation that environmental rights and protection will be given highest priority in Michigan," **explained Maya van Rossum, the Founder of the Green Amendments For the Generations national movement and organization**, and is author of a book titled The Green Amendment, the People's Fight For a Clean, Safe & Healthy Environment. "As proposed, the Michigan Green Amendment recognizes environmental rights as an inalienable right deserving of the same highest protection that is currently given to speech, religious, civil and property rights," added van Rossum.

"As a sufferer of asthma, I see the Green Amendment as a way of providing relief in reducing air pollution, a major issue which affects my breathing and at times can prevent me from doing activities out of doors. A Green Amendment would be a great help to me and others like me who suffer from this disease," **said Chris Barsy-Eckman, a Michigan resident active in environmental causes and organizations in her community.**

If passed through the state legislature by a 2/3 majority vote of each legislative house, the amendment proposal would then be put before the people of Michigan for a vote.

The concept of constitutional environmental rights already exists in Pennsylvania, Montana, and most recently New York, where it has been used to encourage and secure stronger environmental protections. In addition to Michigan, constitutional environmental rights proposals that meet the definition of a Green Amendment include: California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Mexico, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin, [among others](#).

van Rossum coined the term “Green Amendment” and founded the national Green Amendment movement in 2014 in order to secure constitutional environmental rights protection in every state nationwide, and ultimately at the federal level. “Green Amendments are a special type of constitutional environmental rights amendment. By placing environmental rights in a state constitution’s Declaration of Rights, using carefully crafted language that creates an enforceable right of the people that is self-executing and generational, Green Amendments ensure the highest constitutional protection for the environment, placing environmental rights on par with other fundamental freedoms,” explained van Rossum.

*For more information:*

- ✓ [www.MIGreenAmendment.org](http://www.MIGreenAmendment.org)
- ✓ [www.ForTheGenerations.org](http://www.ForTheGenerations.org)

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