



Press Statement

From Maya K. van Rossum, Founder of the Green Amendments For The Generations movement & leader in securing the New York Green Amendment, Article 1 Section 19.

Responding to Appellate Division Decision re The People of the State of New York et. al. v Norlite LLC

The decision issued out of the Appellate Division 3rd Department in the case *The People of the State of New York et. al. v Norlite LLC*, is, quite simply wrong.

The Appellate Division's decision in *Norlite* threatens to strip New York's Green Amendment of its meaning, inexplicably claiming that neither the State of New York nor the people of New York have the power to protect the rights enshrined in New York's constitution. As a part of the grassroots movement to bring this amendment to life, I know for a fact that the people of New York did not believe they were establishing such a toothless constitutional right. Green Amendments for the Generations will continue to fight for New Yorkers' environmental rights and looks forward to the day that the highest court in New York follows the command of the voters who adopted Article I, section 19.

Pennsylvania and Montana are the other two states with Green Amendments. The legal precedent regarding these state Green Amendments should inform the appropriate interpretation of the NY Green Amendment. Sadly, the court misinterpreted and/or misrepresented that precedent, or the historic foundation upon which the NY Green Amendment was crafted, passed and secured.

Green Amendments For The Generations and sister organization Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed an amicus brief with the court in August of 2025.

Bio & Contact Information:

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[Maya K. van Rossum](#) is the Founder of the national Green Amendments For The Generations movement and organization, author of The Green Amendment, The People's Fight For a Clean, Safe & Healthy Environment, and also serves as the Delaware Riverkeeper & 30 year leader of the regional Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Maya and her team helped lead the effort to secure the New York Green Amendment.