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,