



For Immediate Release

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First in the Nation Green Amendment Hearing of 2024 Set In Washington State

Olympia, Washington: Washington State will be holding the **first in the nation** public hearing on a proposed state Green Amendment for 2024. The Washington Green Amendment was re-proposed for 2024 legislative consideration by Representative Debra Lekanoff. The proposed amendment ([HJR4210](#)) was assigned to the House Environment and Energy Committee for first consideration. Within days, the committee scheduled the amendment for consideration at a public hearing to be held on Monday, January 29. The Washington amendment would add constitutional environmental rights, and environmental justice obligations, to the State constitution's bill of rights. Among the protections provided, the amendment would recognize the rights of present and future generations to clean water and air, a safe climate and healthy environments.

According to **Maya K. van Rossum, the leader of the national Green Amendment For The Generations** movement and organization “this swift scheduling of the Washington Green Amendment for a public hearing puts Washington state at the head of the pack of state’s nationwide where Green Amendments are under consideration.” Adds van Rossum, “the Washington Green Amendment, if passed, would make Washington the first state in the nation to explicitly and unequivocally provide constitutional protection for the right to a safe climate. Governor Inslee has sought to be a national leader in addressing the climate crisis. While he has no official role in whether or not the Green Amendment is passed and added to the constitution, his support for the Washington Green Amendment, which includes generational protection for environmental rights, including the right to a safe climate, would solidify Governor Inslee and the state of Washington as a true climate leader in the annals of history.”

“We are excited that Washington is helping to lead the way in environmental rights protection. Having a hearing during this year’s short legislative session demonstrates that Washingtonians and legislators are excited by the idea of protecting environmental rights generationally and for ensuring environmental justice is given highest constitutional protection. This achievement of being first in the nation to hold a Green Amendment hearing in 2024 shows that significant momentum exists for a Green Amendment in Washington state,” says David Kipnis, a leader in the Washington Green Amendment Strategic Team.

According to the Green Amendments For The Generations organization, there are active efforts to secure constitutional Green Amendments spanning the nation, from coast to coast. Green Amendment proposals have been proposed in 14 states, with over half a dozen more anticipated soon, including, but not limited to, New Mexico, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Michigan, Connecticut, among others. Green Amendments already passed in Pennsylvania, Montana and most recently New York, are demonstrating the powerful protection constitutional environmental rights of this kind can provide, with the *Held v. Montana* legal victory being the most recent, but certainly not the only one.

van Rossum coined the term “Green Amendment,” and founded the national Green Amendments movement in 2014 in order to secure constitutional environmental rights protection in every state nationwide, and ultimately at the federal level.

If the Joint Resolution secures a 2/3 vote of support in both the Senate and House of Representatives it will be placed on the next general election ballot for a vote by the people of the State.

“Constitutional Green Amendments are a special type of constitutional environmental rights amendment. By placing environmental rights in a state constitution’s bill 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 such as speech and religion,” explains van Rossum.

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