

**Nebraskans for Peace  
Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light  
Nebraska Sierra Club  
Green Amendments For The Generations**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Nebraska Senator Proposes a Constitutional Amendment  
to Protect Environmental Rights in the State**

**Lincoln, Nebraska;** Senator George Dungan has introduced LR 22CA, an amendment to the state constitution that will recognize environmental rights. If passed, the amendment would place environmental rights in the state legally on par with other well-recognized fundamental rights such as the rights to free speech, private property and freedom of religion. The amendment would be added to the state constitution's bill of rights, and read:

“All people have a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy soils, balanced ecosystems, a safe climate, and diverse and abundant native flora and fauna and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and healthful qualities of the environment. The state, and each subdivision thereof, shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of Nebraska and shall conserve, protect, and maintain such resources for the benefit of all the people, including present and future generations. The rights and obligations in this section shall be self-executing.”

**Senator George Dungan**, who introduced the amendment January 21, explains, “The Nebraska Green Amendment recognizes and protects our right to a clean and healthy environment. This is an opportunity for Nebraska to become a leader in environmental protections so that all citizens - current and future - have access to clean air, water, soil, and ecosystems. I've spoken with youth from all around the state about the issues that are important to them, and they consistently put the need for clean air and water at the top of their list. We owe it to future generations to act now.”

The constitutional amendment proposal is already receiving strong support from Nebraska 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.

“Nebraskans for Peace stands in support of LR 22CA, the Green Amendment for Nebraska. We believe that guaranteeing the right to a healthy environment is a fundamental human right. By enshrining environmental protections into our State Constitution, we can make sure future generations inherit a clean and livable Nebraska. We hope to ensure Nebraskans, especially marginalized communities, have access to clean air, land, and water. It is time for Nebraska to act and pass LR 22CA securing environmental justice for everyone!” said **Brittany Cooper, Executive Director, Nebraskans for Peace.**

“People of all ages from all across the state are excited about the opportunity to support a constitutional right to protect our life-giving air, water and other resources that sustain our health and economy in Nebraska,” said **Ken Winston, Executive Director of Nebraska Interfaith Power & Light.** “We are looking forward to working with Senator Dungan and others who care about quality of life and the future of our children to support LR 22CA.”

“If passed this year, Nebraska could be the 4<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to have a constitutional Green Amendment giving highest constitutional protection to environmental rights,” said **Maya van Rossum, Founder of the national Green Amendments movement and organization, [Green Amendments for the Generations](#) and author of [The Green Amendment, the People’s Fight For a Clean, Safe & Healthy Environment](#).** According to van Rossum, “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.”

Constitutional Green Amendments already exist in Pennsylvania, Montana, and most recently New York, where it has been used to encourage and secure stronger environmental protections. In addition to Nebraska, constitutional environmental rights proposals that meet the definition of a Green Amendment include: California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Mexico, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, Texas and Washington [along with 10 others](#) for a total of [19 with amendments proposed and an additional half dozen on the way](#).

If passed by a 3/5 majority of the unicameral, the amendment would then go to the ballot for Nebraska voters to decide.

For more information: [www.NEGreenAmendment.org](http://www.NEGreenAmendment.org)

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