



For Immediate Release

April 22, 2024

Contacts:

Maya K. van Rossum, Founder Green Amendments For The Generations,
maya@forthe generations.org 215-801-3041

Wisconsin Joins National Movement to Add Constitutional Green Amendment Recognizing Environmental Rights

Madison, WI: Wisconsin has joined the national movement to add environmental rights to its state constitution's Declaration of Rights. Proposed by state legislators Representative Darrin Madison and Senator Mark Spreitzer during the 2024 legislative session, the Wisconsin Green Amendment would provide constitutional recognition and protection to the right of all the people of Wisconsin to “a clean, safe, and healthy natural environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy soils, self-sustaining ecosystems, and a safe and stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the environment”, and would recognize these rights as belonging to both present and future generations.

“I am proud to introduce a Green Amendment that will protect Wisconsin's climate and environment for current and future generations. Communities across Wisconsin are struggling with environmental challenges ranging from a lack of access to sustainable and affordable food to lead and PFAS contamination in our waters. By granting constitutional rights to all people, this Green Amendment creates strong environmental justice pathways for marginalized communities across Wisconsin that too often face the brunt of environmental pollution. This amendment provides a transformational opportunity for the people of Wisconsin to vote to protect our natural resources for all regardless of socioeconomic status,” **stated Wisconsin State Representative Darrin Madison.**

“This proposed Green Amendment puts Wisconsin on the leading edge of a growing national movement to recognize and protect environmental rights,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Founder of the [Green Amendments For The Generations](https://www.forthethegenerations.org) organization** that is at the forefront of the national effort to secure explicit recognition of environmental rights in every state constitution nationwide, and at the federal level. “Contrary to what others might suggest, constitutional recognition of environmental rights is not designed to harm any particular industry, it is intended to protect the environment for all people, and all generations, and simply to ensure that businesses operate as good members of the communities where they too reside. The fact is, when we protect the environment we enhance public health, community quality of life, economic growth, and our cherished natural resources,” van Rossum added.

According to Green Amendments For The Generations, there are active Green Amendment proposals in 15 states, with more proposals expected soon. 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. Other Green Amendment legal and advocacy victories for protecting healthy water, air, soils and communities can be found at: <https://fortheGenerations.org/resources/legal-resources/> .

In addition to Wisconsin, constitutional environmental rights proposals that meet the definition of a Green Amendment include: California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Mexico, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Texas, Washington, [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.WIGreenAmendment.org
- ✓ www.ForTheGenerations.org

#####