



For Immediate Release

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Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee Passes New Mexico Green Amendment Through Committee

Santa Fe, NM - This morning, the Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee voted the Green Amendment, HJR3, through committee with a vote of 6 to 3 in a Do Pass Without Recommendation decision. The Green Amendment was the only bill heard in today's committee with over two hours of questions and public comments before the bill was voted on. HJR3 is a proposed amendment to the New Mexico Constitution's Bill of Rights section giving the people a right to "clean and healthy air, water, soil and environments; healthy native flora, fauna and ecosystems, and a safe climate; and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment."

"The Green Amendment guides government entities to consider the environmental impacts on our air, land and water, our ecosystem and climate. This means that we will have the utmost consideration for the health and well being of New Mexicans. We need the Green Amendment to avert disastrous consequences that could affect us for generations! By having early evaluation and consultation of projects for permitting, protective measures can be implemented from the projects beginning and avoid costly changes." **says Representative Joanne Ferrary**

"The Green Amendment is a transformative opportunity for New Mexico, promising a future where environmental protection is not just a priority but a constitutional right. As a state deeply intertwined with the oil and gas industry, New Mexico has witnessed firsthand the economic benefits of energy development—but also the environmental and social costs" **says Senator Harold Pope Jr.**

"This was a great success for the Green Amendment in New Mexico. This is year 5 of us fighting to get this passed and the support and the desire to see the Green Amendment get in front of the people for a vote has not wavered or diminished. We saw in the hearing room today the outpouring of public support and comment while we saw the opposition fill the room with lobbyists. If we make it through

this legislative session the people of New Mexico could vote on the Green Amendment this November. Now more than ever, our states will be the front lines for protecting our environment, our health, and our communities and the Green Amendment is the best tool New Mexico can possibly have” says **Maya K. van Rossum, founder of the Green Amendment movement and Green Amendments For The Generations.**

“HJR 3’s purpose adds protections, particularly for low income communities and neighborhoods which have traditionally been the sites, or as some refer, the dumping ground for pollutive industries. So long as we lack the necessary guardrails, such as the Green Amendment, habitants of our State remain at risk and we will continue seeing healthy declines of our children, wildfires rage, flash floods inundate rural areas, and see the overall decline of otherwise healthy communities. Our right to clean air, water, soil, and environment should be protected above profits for the few elite.” says **Representative Patricia Roybal Caballero**

“As New Mexicans, we all value our tremendous natural resources. Our diverse ecosystems and stunning landscapes make this a unique and enchanting place to live. Lawmakers have a once in a lifetime opportunity in front of them to make a positive, long-term impact for the state’s environmental health. I urge legislators to pass this resolution for the sake of the lands we live on, the water we drink, and the air we breathe.” says **New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard**

“Today many of our constituents are battling health issues due to hazardous working conditions. It’s imperative we address the concerns of such practices. That is why New Mexico needs a Green Amendment to address the contaminants and practices that hurt our health before they even begin” says **Senator Shannon Pinto.**

“I first want to extend my appreciation to the HGEIA committee. The passage of the Green Amendment out of its first committee demonstrated the important that all people in New Mexico have a right to a clean and healthy environment for future generations.” says **Representative Joseph Franklin Hernandez**

“State law is going to be critical to protect our environment against the likely dismantling of federal environmental protections. The environmental rights constitutional amendment will be an important tool to help our state protect our beautiful but environmentally fragile communities” says **Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez**

“Today's successful vote on HJR3 is a crucial step toward securing every New Mexican’s right to a clean and healthy environment. As we face increasing threats to our land, water, and wildlife as well as our democracy, this measure protects the fundamental right of the people to shape their own future and ensure that future generations inherit a thriving natural world. We applaud the committee members who stood on the side of people and the planet today and urge the full legislature to follow their lead” says **Michelle Lute, PhD, Executive Director of Wildlife for All**

“The Green Amendment is a vital protection for the people of New Mexico, ensuring a healthy future for nuestros comunidades. We cannot continue to prioritize profits over our people, and today the respected members of the House Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee agreed” says **Carolos Matutes, New Mexico Community Advocate, GreenLatinos**

“New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light and the many faith communities affiliated with us have supported the Green Amendment since it was first proposed and we continue to support it in its current iteration today. We believe the Green Amendment is a tool that not only protects us with a legal framework, it also helps us transform the consciousness of our culture toward one that remembers: the common good of the people and the planet have always been one and the same. Our indigenous siblings knew and know this and now it is time for us all to collectively reclaim our fundamental right to a flourishing future, our right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and our right to live responsibly on and with the earth. We are happy to see the Green Amendment be moving forward this legislative session” says **Reverend Clara Sims, Assistant Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light**

“Legislative environmentalism has failed communities across New Mexico, that's why the Green Amendment is needed. New Mexico is being inundated by oceans of oil and gas waste. Liquid fracking waste is being spilled across the state - more than four spills per day, hundreds of which affect ground and surface water, and more than one billion barrels injected underground each year, causing earthquakes, blowouts and risking contamination of aquifers. Hazardous, radioactive solid waste that contains toxins and hydrocarbons is trucked across the state and dumped in landfills. And thousands of abandoned oil and gas wells spewing methane have been left for the public to clean up. The legislature has failed to curb this waste” says **Mariel Nanasi, Lead Attorney and Executive Director, New Energy Economy**

“We must confront the devastation to our environment that our society has created. But love for our environment has sustained so many of us as we have fought for the Green Amendment in New Mexico every year for the past 5 years. This love for our environment and protecting its vitality will sustain us to see the Green Amendment become a reality” says **Consuelo Walker, Chair, Creation Care Committee, Westminster Presbyterian Church.**

“It is a shameful and preventable loss that the New Mexico Environment Department hands out endless discharge permits to pollute. This is why Grant County Democrats support voting for the Green Amendment so we can finally have a constitutional right to clean air and water” says **Glenn Griffin, GCDP Ward AW Chair**

The Green Amendment now waits to be scheduled for its next committee hearing in the House in this legislative session. Folks can follow the progress of the amendment and get involved at www.nmgreenamendment.org