

# Proclamation of the Albany County Legislature

- Whereas,** The right of New Yorkers to clean water, air and a healthy environment is not given protection in the State of New York's Constitution; and
- Whereas,** Clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy; and
- Whereas,** While environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws do not support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights; and
- Whereas,** There are a multitude of issues threatening New York's water, air, natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and PFOA in the drinking water supply, poor air quality, and disproportionate environmental impacts; and
- Whereas,** Climate change impacts are contributing to a loss of habitat and wetlands; detrimental changes to coast lines, including erosion and accretion of land; loss of agricultural productivity; loss of property, injury and death from more severe storms and flooding; and
- Whereas,** Peaker plants that produce fossil fuels continue to pollute in New York's most vulnerable communities causing higher rates of asthma and other illnesses; and
- Whereas,** Over 2 billion gallons of untreated sewage are discharged annually into the Hudson River; and
- Whereas,** Overdevelopment has degraded our streams and wetlands and left our drinking sources vulnerable to pollution; and
- Whereas,** The State Legislature passed Green Amendment Bill (A.1368/S.528) in 2019 that proposes an amendment to article 1 of the constitution; and
- Whereas,** In recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in the New York State Constitution, the bill must be passed by the New York State Legislature in 2021 and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum; now, therefore, be it resolved
- Resolved,** The Albany County Legislature supports the second passage of the Green Amendment Bill by the New York State Legislature in 2021 so that residents of Albany County may choose whether to add the right to clean air, water and a healthful environment to the Bill of Rights of the New York State Constitution.

**In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the County Legislature of Albany County to be affixed on this th day of January, 2021.**