



NY Green Amendment Letter to the Editor Template

Dear Editor,

You might be shocked to realize that New Yorkers do not have the right to clean air and water. While we have many rights here in New York (including the right to play BINGO), we lack a basic, human right in our state's constitution – a Green Amendment, or commonsense constitutional protection of your right to live in a healthy environment.

A Green Amendment would hold every government decision to a higher standard...a standard that asks a simple question – is this project safe for our air and water?

I live in (insert town/city), New York. Some environmental issues we face in (insert town/city) include (insert environmental issues such as flooding, diesel pollution from truck traffic, heat island effect, PFAS in drinking water, etc.)

A Green Amendment in the New York State Constitution would recognize and protect “clean air and water, and a healthful environment” for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or income. This could be a significant tool for environmental justice communities because a Green Amendment would require legislators to treat all communities equitably and consider the science, facts, and impacts *from the beginning* of the decision making process.

Environmental rights are important to me because (insert your own personalized reason or see our examples below)

Examples:

No person should suffer disproportionate environmental, health and quality of life burdens because of who they are, the color of their skin, their ethnicity, their income, or where they live.

We all depend on pure water, clean air and a healthy environment to live!

My child/daughter/son has asthma and I want to protect their right to clean air!

Polluters will continue to pollute if we don't prevent them from doing so. A Green Amendment will empower New Yorkers to stand up for their environmental rights and hold decisionmakers accountable, helping to make New York a true environmental leader.

Your Name

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