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States Across the Nation embrace the National Green Amendment Movement
Securing Bill of Rights Protection for Their Environment

States across the nation are quickly moving to adopt “Green Amendments” and protect the environmental rights of their people after being inspired by the national Green Amendment movement. Green Amendments constitutionally recognize and protect a person’s right to clean air and water, a stable climate, and a healthy environment. Currently only Montana and Pennsylvania have Green Amendments, but after seeing rapid growth in the movement due to the inspirational leadership of one woman and her fledgling organization, 11 states are currently advancing Green Amendment proposals.

“After 5 years of spreading the Green Amendment message and the power of constitutional environmental rights for advancing environmental protection, climate justice, generational justice and environmental justice, it is so exciting to have inspired 11 states with Green Amendment proposals, 5 of which are poised to be the first in the modern era to give their residents the opportunity to vote for constitutional protection of environmental rights,” **said Maya K. van Rossum, Founder of Green Amendments For The Generations.**

In 2013, Maya van Rossum was the lead environmental plaintiff in litigation that defeated a piece of dangerous, pro-fracking legislation in Pennsylvania known as “Act 13”. The case revitalized Pennsylvania’s Green Amendment, overturning 42 years of bad precedent, inspiring her to write [a book about it](#) and to start a nonprofit organization dedicated to securing Green Amendments in every state.

States where Green Amendment proposals are advancing include: New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii, Washington State, Oregon, Maryland, West Virginia and Vermont. A proposal in Maine is forthcoming.

See below for a rundown of some recent developments:

- New York: In early 2021, the proposed Green Amendment bill ([S.528/A.1368](#)) secured second passage in both the Senate and Assembly. It will now go before the voters of New York in November.
- New Mexico: [Senate Joint Resolution 3](#), a resolution to amend the New Mexico Constitution in order to add enforceable environmental rights, passed in the Senate Rules Committee on February 8. It will now move to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The first episode of a

documentary about the movement in New Mexico was also recently released and is available to view [here](#).

- Kentucky: On January 22, Representative Josie Raymond (31st LD) proposed a Green Amendment ([House Bill 107](#)) in Kentucky.
- Hawaii: On January 25, Senator Mike Gabbard (20th LD) proposed a Green Amendment ([Senate Bill 502](#)) in Hawaii. On February 3 the proposed Hawaii Green Amendment was unanimously voted out of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee. On February 11, the House Bill companion will be heard by the House Energy and Environmental Protection Committee & Water and Land Committee.
- Washington: February 9, Representative Debra Lekanoff (D-Bow) introduced a Washington State proposal ([House Joint Resolution 4205](#)).
- Oregon: In early January, Senator Jeff Golden submitted a pre-session proposal for a Green Amendment ([SJR5](#)). First stop for the bill will be the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment.
- New Jersey: Bi-partisan support offered this amendment 2 years ago, there is active engagement in the hopes of securing 2021 passage and a vote by the people.

Green Amendments prevent pollution and environmental degradation rather than simply manage it as other environmental protection laws do. The amendments include an obligation to protect the environmental rights, including climate rights of future generations which is in and of itself legally transformative. Environmental justice is tremendously strengthened by Green Amendments because they constitutionally oblige all government officials at all levels of government to equitably protect the environmental rights of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, wealth or generation.

For more information about the Green Amendment movement, visit <https://forthe generations.org/>

To learn more about the Green Amendment movement or to set up an interview with Maya van Rossum, please contact Colleen Burns at colleen@forthe generations.org

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