



PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

November 14, 2022

Contacts:

- Representative Joanne Ferrary, 575-382-6425, ferraryrep37@gmail.com
- Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, (505) 480-2469, asedillolopez@gmail.com
- Maya van Rossum, Founder, Green Amendments For The Generations, 215 801 3043, maya@forthe generations.org

Radioactive Waste and Hazardous Materials Committee Votes in Support of New Mexico Green Amendment

Santa Fe, NM – Recognizing its value for ensuring beneficial environmental protections, on Monday, November 14, 2022, the Radioactive Waste and Hazardous Materials Committee of the New Mexico legislature voted 5 to 2 in support of the proposed New Mexico Green Amendment. In response to a request by New Mexico Green Amendment prime House sponsor Representative Joanne Ferrary, Committee Chair Jeffrey Steinborn put the proposed constitutional amendment before the Interim Committee for consideration.

Committee members who voted in support of committee endorsement were Chair Senator Steinborn, Vice Chair Representative Joanne Ferrary, who is lead sponsor of the proposal in the House, Senate Alternate Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, who is lead sponsor on the proposal in the Senate, Representative Alcon, and Representative Sarinana. Voting against were Representatives Lord and Brown.

"I'm proud to have the support of the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee with their Endorsement of the New Mexico Green Amendment. The discussion was interesting and proved the concerns for protecting our air, water and soil for the generations!" **Representative Joanne Ferrary, lead sponsor of the Green Amendment in the New Mexico House of Representatives.**

"The endorsement of the Green Amendment was an opportunity to discuss the benefits of the amendment for our beautiful, environmentally fragile state and to clear up some misconceptions. This meaningful endorsement will help us ramp up our 2023 efforts," offered **Senator Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, lead sponsor of the Green Amendment in the New Mexico Senate.**

During testimony, the committee heard about the valuable elements of the language anticipated to be proposed in the 2023 legislative session, including elements that highlight the environmental justice protections offered.

More Information at: www.NMGreenAmendment.org

The proposed New Mexico Green Amendment will read:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 2 of the constitution of New Mexico by adding:

- A. The people of the state shall be entitled to clean and healthy air, water, soil and environments; a stable climate; and self-sustaining ecosystems, for the benefit of public health, safety and general welfare. The state shall protect these rights equitably for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal membership status, gender, socioeconomics, or geography.
- B. The state, counties and municipalities shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of New Mexico and shall conserve, protect and maintain these resources for the benefit of all the people, including present and future generations.
- C. The provisions of this section are self-executing. Monetary damages shall not be awarded for a violation of this section. This section is enforceable against the state, counties and municipalities.

SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 20 of the constitution of New Mexico by repealing Section 21.

###