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May 7, 2018

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
Establish Environmental Rights in the NYS Constitution

**“EACH PERSON SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO
CLEAN AIR AND WATER, AND A
HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT.”**

Assembly Bill A6279; Senate Bill S5287
2017-2018 Legislative Session

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in
relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful
environment.

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), that article 1
of the constitution be amended by adding a new section 19 to
read as follows:

S 19. ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS. EACH PERSON SHALL HAVE A RIGHT
TO CLEAN AIR AND WATER, AND A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT.

Many people are surprised that we do not already have the right to clean air and water or a healthful environment, but we do not. Together, we can change that. To get on a November ballot for us (“we the people”) to vote on it, this resolution must be passed twice by our representatives in the legislature, with an election in between. It does not require the Governor’s signature. The Assembly has already passed it.

Once incorporated into the NYS Constitution, this visionary moral statement will have a beneficial influence on our shared environment for as long as this Constitution shall last. These words are vital for ourselves, our families, and our communities. The Assembly passed this bill in April 2018. Now it’s up to the NY Senate to pass it and pass it again next year so the people of New York can vote to make it part of our Constitution.