

SAMPLE RESOLUTION OF THE [MUNICIPALITY i.e. COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE]

RESOLUTION NO. _____ AUTHORITY FOR [MUNICIPAL BODY]
PROPOSED BY: [RESOLUTION SPONSOR]

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A “GREEN AMENDMENT” TO THE
NEW JERSEY STATE CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, the right of New Jerseyans to clean water, air and a healthy environment is not recognized in the State of New Jersey’s Constitution;

WHEREAS, clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy;

WHEREAS, New Jersey State has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to protect the New Jerseyans health and environment;

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;

WHEREAS, there are still a multitude of issues threatening New Jersey’s water, air, natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants such as PFAS and PFOA in our drinking water supplies, poor to failing air quality, and disproportionate adverse impacts in environmental justice and frontline communities;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is deadlier in areas with historically worse air quality;

WHEREAS, [Municipal Body] is also particularly concerned about [Fill in issues of particular interest and importance to the municipality]

[Example topics of concern/interest]

- flooding and flood damages / drought and drought damages are harming the health and safety of our communities.
- polluted air is increasing the rate of asthma, heart disease, lung cancer, ADHD and Alzheimer's in our state
- impacts of climate change are increasing, including sea level rise and detrimental changes to coast lines; loss of habitat and wetlands; loss of agricultural productivity; loss of property, injury and death from more severe storms, fires and flooding; and the spread of deadly disease vectors.
- perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) is causing children, families and communities to suffer from developmental delays; impacted immune systems, liver, prostate or kidneys; and even cancer in our state.
- communities with a higher percentage of Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, low income, Asian/Pacific Islander and immigrant communities continue to be disproportionately targeted for high rates of pollution, industry and development.
- contaminated sites put nearby communities at risk of health hazards, and reduce property values.

WHEREAS, in recognition of these facts, the Green Amendment ([ACR72/SCR15](#))* has been introduced in the New Jersey Senate and Assembly by Senators Greenstein and Bateman and Assemblymen McKeon and Benson on a bi-partisan basis including 50 co-sponsors that would amend the state constitution to insert into Article I, New Jersey's bill of rights, the right to pure water, clean air and a healthy environment to coexist with our other constitutional rights we hold so dear including but not limited to the rights to hold property, speak, assemble, and worship;

WHEREAS, in recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in the New Jersey State Constitution the above mentioned bill must be passed by the New Jersey State Legislature and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum;

WHEREAS, if the Resolution (ACR72/SCR15) is passed by the Senate and then the Assembly, and if it is agreed to by the voters in a public question ballot referendum, this "green amendment" will be added to the Bill of Rights of New Jersey State Constitution;

WHEREAS, the **[Municipal Body]** hereby supports the Green Amendment (ACR72/SCR15); so that the voters may choose whether to add environmental rights to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution, and further

RESOLVED, that the **[Municipal Body]** supports the passage of the Green Amendment by the New Jersey State Legislature in 2021 in time to be on the ballot this November;

RESOLVED, that the **[Municipal Body]** encourages its County based legislative delegation to support ACR72 and SCR15 for full passage by the Assembly and Senate so that the voters of our great State and great County may choose whether to add the right to a clean and healthy environment to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution this year;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our State Legislative Delegation, Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Governor Murphy, Green Amendments For the Generations**, [and **any combination of the the following as appropriate:**

local County Commissioners/Executive

local municipal elected officials

if a municipality, send to your county's elected officials

if a county, send to all the county's local elected officials]

For more information, visit: www.NJGreenAmendment.org

* Copies of the Green Amendment can be found on the NJ Legislature's website (ACR72 & SCR15's language is identical)

- ACR72 at https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/ACR/72_I1.PDF
- SCR15 at https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/SCR/15_I1.PDF

** Green Amendments For The Generations: 925 Canal St, Suite 3701, Bristol PA 19007 or GAFTG@forthegenerations.org