

**BOROUGH OF CAPE MAY POINT  
COUNTY OF CAPE MAY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION 56-19**

**SUPPORTING “GREEN AMENDMENT” TO THE NEW JERSEY  
STATE CONSTITUTION**

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

**WHEREAS**, while New Jersey used to be known as an environmental leader in passing legislation to require remediation of contaminated sites, generation and use of alternative forms of energy, recycling of certain materials at a high level, and numerous other environmental topics, there are still thousands of sites where the soil needs to be cleaned up and which contaminants continue to migrate down into and pollute groundwater, brownfields that need to be put to productive use, public drinking water supplies and school water systems that need to be rid of lead, solvents and chemicals, and places where the air is still unhealthy especially when ozone peaks in the summer heat, with the American Lung Association noting that eleven of new Jersey’s 21 counties receive an F rating from the group when comparing smog levels to health-based air quality standards; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is recognized as a leading threat to New Jersey’s environment that impacts the Jersey shore, is detrimental to our barrier islands, loss of habitat and wetlands, dramatic changes to coastal living including erosion and accretion of land, which will impair titles and property rights, impairment of fishing, boating, seafood production and tourism, impairment of our shore-based tourism economy, and property damage, death and injuries from more severe storms and flooding influenced by rising sea level and warmer waters, and by more frequent and heavier rainfall; and

**WHEREAS**, a clean and healthy environment is directly related to one’s health and longevity; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a recent poll of 811 adults across New Jersey by Fairleigh Dickinson University’s “PublicMind” poll, the majority (71%) of adults asked “strongly agree” that the right to clean air and clean water should be protected by the State Constitution in a manner similar to the rights of free speech, freedom of religion and other protections, and an additional 12% of adults polled “agree” with that statement, with only 14% disagreeing with the statement (6% disagree, 8% strongly disagree); and

**WHEREAS**, in that poll, the “strongly agree” sentiment runs across all demographics; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of these facts, a bi-partisan bill has recently been introduced in the New Jersey Senate co-sponsored by Senators Greenstein-D, and Bateman-R (SCR 134), which proposes an amendment to the State Constitution by adding a new paragraph 24 as follows: “24(a) Every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of the environment. The State shall not infringe upon these rights by action or inaction.”; and

**WHEREAS**, if SCR 134 is passed by the Senate and ACR 85 is passed by the Assembly, a public question ballot referendum would be placed on the next general election ballot asking the public “Do you approve amending the Constitution to grant every person the right to a clean and healthy environment? The amendment would also require the State to protect public natural resources.”; and

**WHEREAS**, if the amendment is agreed to by the voters in the public question ballot referendum, this “green amendment” will be added to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point recognizes that clean water, air and a healthy environment will help to protect the health and enhance the quality of life of all residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point, County of Cape May, New Jersey hereby supports SCR 134 and ACR 85 and urges its legislative delegation to support these bills for full passage by the Assembly and Senate so that the voters of our great State may choose whether to add the right to a clean and healthy environment to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution.

	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mullock			X			
vanHeeswyk	X		X			
Moffatt		X	X			

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of full membership of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point, County of Cape May, New Jersey, at a meeting held on April 11, 2019.

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Municipal Clerk