

**RESOLUTION #2021-45
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, HUNTERDON COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF “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 with any protection in the State of New Jersey’s Constitution; and

WHEREAS, while New Jersey is known as an environmental leader in terms of passing legislation to require remediation of contaminated sites, generation and use of renewable forms of energy, recycling of certain material at a high level, and numerous other environmental areas; and

WHEREAS, despite New Jersey’s best efforts to regulate activities to minimize environmental impacts, significant impacts have nonetheless occurred, resulting in unacceptable contamination of our air and water with resulting negative health effects to our citizens, and in modifications to climate, resulting in increased danger and economic loss to our citizens, due to flooding and reduced potable water supplies, for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, our rights to free speech, to a free press, to religious freedom, and property rights are among the many fundamental rights guaranteed by our federal and state constitutions but our rights to clean water, clean air, and healthy environments, are not recognized or protected as fundamental rights by our State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, Hunterdon County, believe that a clean and healthy environment is directly related to one’s health, and longevity; and

WHEREAS, in light of these facts, the Township Committee has become aware that a bi-partisan bill was recently introduced in the New Jersey Senate co-sponsored by Senators Greenstein-D and Bateman-R (“SCR 30”), with a counterpart bill in the New Jersey Assembly (“ACR 80”), which state:

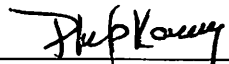
1. Every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic qualities of the environment. The State shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.
2. The State’s public natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people, including both present and future generations. The State shall serve as trustee of these resources, and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.
3. This paragraph and the rights stated herein are (1) self-executing, and (2) shall be in addition to any rights conferred by the public trust doctrine or common law.

NOW THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, Hunterdon County, hereby supports SCR 30 and its counterpart in the Assembly ACR 80; and further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Committee encourages its County-based legislative delegation to support SCR 30 and ACR 80 for full passage by the Assembly and Senate so that 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.

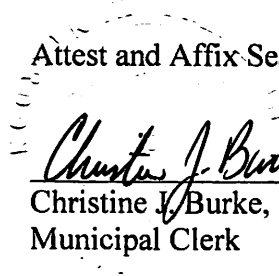
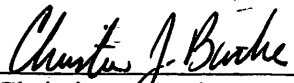
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the municipality's State Legislative Delegation.

ADOPTED: October 28, 2021




Philip Koury, Mayor
Township Committee

Attest and Affix Seal:

Christine J. Burke, RMC
Municipal Clerk

I, Christine J. Burke, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, do hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on October 28, 2021



Christine Burke, RMC
Municipal Clerk