

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-138**

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

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

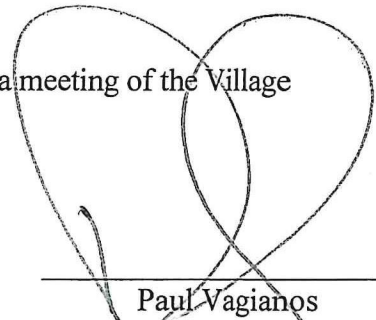
WHEREAS, clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to safeguard New Jersey residents’ health and environment; and

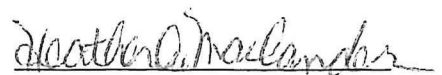
WHEREAS, while environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws fail to support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights; and

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

I hereby certify that this resolution, consisting of 2 page(s), was adopted at a meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood, held this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



Paul Vagianos  
Mayor



Heather A. Mailander  
Village Manager/Village Clerk

	Moved	Second	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Abstain
Perron		X	X			
Reynolds			X			
Weitz	X		X			
Winograd			X			
Vagianos			X			

WHEREAS, the Village of Ridgewood is also particularly concerned about:

- Flooding and flood damage, drought and drought damage that undermine the health and safety of our communities;
- Climate change, including loss of property, injury and death from more severe storms, fires and flooding;
- Loss of habitat and wetlands;
- The spread of deadly disease vectors; and
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in our state's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, State legislators have introduced Green Amendment bills ACR72 and SCR15 on a bi-partisan basis including 50 co-sponsors who would amend the state constitution to insert into Article I, New Jersey's bill of rights, the right to safe drinking water, clean air and a healthy environment to coexist with our other constitutional rights, which we hold so dear, including but not limited to the rights to hold property, speak, assemble, and worship; and

WHEREAS, in order to enact a Green Amendment in the New Jersey State Constitution the New Jersey State Legislature would have to pass the above mentioned bills and then residents would have to vote on a statewide referendum; and

WHEREAS, if the Assembly and the Senate pass Resolutions ACR72 and SCR15 respectively, and if the voters agree in a public question ballot referendum, this "Green Amendment" will be added to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood supports the Green Amendment as reflected in Resolutions ACR72 and SCR15; so that the voters may choose whether to add environmental rights to the Bill of Rights of the New Jersey State Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood supports the passage of the Green Amendment by the New Jersey State Legislature in 2023 in time to be on the ballot this November; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Ridgewood 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; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to:

Governor Phil D. Murphy  
Senate President Nicholas P. Scutari  
New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin  
New Jersey Senator Kristin M. Corrado  
New Jersey Assemblyman Christopher P. DePhillips  
New Jersey Assemblyman Kevin J. Rooney  
Department of Environmental Protection, Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette  
Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III  
Bergen County Commissioners Mary J. Amoroso, Germaine M. Ortiz, Thomas J. Sullivan, Steven A. Tanelli,  
Dr. Joan M. Voss, Tracy Silna Zur  
Green Amendments for the Generations, [GAFTG@forthegenerations.org](mailto:GAFTG@forthegenerations.org).