



General Assembly

***Substitute Senate Joint
Resolution No. 36***

January Session, 2025



***RESOLUTION PROPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS.***

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding section 21 as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 21. Each person shall have an individual right to clean and
8 healthy air, water, soil and ecosystems, a clean and healthy environment
9 and a safe and stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and
10 the general welfare. The state shall not unreasonably infringe upon
11 these rights and shall make reasonable efforts to protect these rights
12 equitably. In recognizing all of the residents of the state, including
13 present and future generations, as the beneficiaries of a healthy
14 environment, the state shall seek to conserve, manage, protect and
15 maintain, for these beneficiaries, all of the natural resources of
16 Connecticut, including its waters, air, flora, fauna, soils and climate. The
17 state shall not unreasonably allow any degradation, diminution or
18 depletion of the natural environment that contributes to significant or

19 widespread environmental harm or results in an unhealthy or
20 unsustainable environment. The rights stated in this section are
21 equivalent to all other inalienable rights, may not be infringed and may
22 be directly invoked and enforced by the residents of this state.

23 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
24 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
25 elected at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, and
26 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
27 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026,
28 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
29 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
30 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
31 State be amended to (1) provide each resident of this state an enforceable
32 individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil and ecosystems, a
33 clean and healthy environment and a safe and stable climate for the
34 benefit of public health, safety and the general welfare, that is equivalent
35 to all other inalienable rights, and (2) place certain obligations upon the
36 state, including requiring the state to seek to conserve, manage, protect
37 and maintain the state's natural resources?"

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The first sentence was rephrased for clarity.

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*