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CGA Government Administration and Elections Committee  
March 13, 2024

Testimony Submitted by Ann Reed

Vice President for Advocacy and Public Issues LWVCT

**Support for:**

**SJ 193 RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE  
CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, statewide organization committed to effective public policy, the active involvement of citizens in their government, and improving the electoral process.

For decades, the League of Women Voters of Connecticut has supported state policies and programs which promote comprehensive long-range planning for conservation and development of land and water resources. Such planning should consider the interaction of our natural resources with each other as well as their relation to the needs of our growing population. This position leads us to support SJ 193.

SJ 193 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the state of Connecticut recognizing that "Each person shall have an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil, ecosystems and environment; and a safe and stable climate; for the benefit of public health, safety and the general welfare."

This amendment is worthy of inclusion in our constitution because

- 1) it protects the human rights of minority and disadvantaged communities by ensuring they are treated equitably as we face climate change impacts;
- (2) it acknowledges that the right to clean air, water, and soil is an omission in our State Constitution. It is needed to ensure environmental justice;
- (3) our elected officials must ensure state funding is conveyed to minorities and disadvantaged communities to right the errors of the past, and to make sure those decisions and mistakes are not repeated in the future; and
- (4) it recognizes that environmental (climate) justice is an inalienable right.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and soliciting input from a variety of stakeholders.