



General Assembly

**Senate Joint
Resolution No. 36**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 3790



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:
(GAE)

**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, ecosystems and environment and a safe and
9 stable climate for the benefit of public health, safety and the general
10 welfare. The state shall protect these rights equitably for all people
11 regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, gender, socioeconomic
12 status or geography. Recognizing all of the residents of the state,
13 including present and future generations, as the beneficiaries of a
14 healthy environment, the state shall 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 allow, through government action or inaction, any
18 degradation, diminution or depletion of the natural environment that is
19 avoidable, contributes to significant or widespread environmental harm
20 or results in an unhealthy or unsustainable environment. Any funds
21 supporting protection of the state's natural resources shall not be
22 diverted. The rights stated in this section are equivalent to all other
23 inalienable rights, may not be infringed and may be directly invoked
24 and enforced by the residents of this state.

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