



General Assembly

***Proposed House Joint
Resolution No. 13***

January Session, 2023

LCO No. 1992



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Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

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

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 of the state of Connecticut shall have an
8 individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil and environment; a
9 stable climate; and self-sustaining ecosystems; for the benefit of public
10 health, safety and the general welfare. The state shall not infringe upon
11 these rights. The state shall protect these rights equitably for all people
12 regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal membership status, gender,

13 socioeconomics or geography. The state, municipalities, and any
14 political subdivision thereof, shall serve as trustee of the natural
15 resources of Connecticut, among them being its waters, air, flora, fauna,
16 soils, and climate; and shall conserve, protect, and maintain these
17 resources for the benefit of all people, including present and future
18 generations. The rights stated in this section are inherent, inalienable,
19 and indefeasible, are among those rights reserved to the people, and are
20 equivalent with all other inalienable rights. The provisions of this
21 amendment are self-executing.

22 RESOLVED: That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
23 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
24 elected at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and
25 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
26 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024,
27 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
28 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
29 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
30 State be amended to provide each citizen an individual right to clean
31 and healthy air, water, soil and environment; a stable climate; and self-
32 sustaining ecosystems; for the benefit of public health, safety and the
33 general welfare?"