

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 15**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator ANDREW ZWICKER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Codey, Vitale, Cruz-Perez, Diegnan, Turner, Gopal, Gill, Singer,  
Madden, Ruiz, Cunningham, Lagana, Schepisi, Rice, Bramnick, Stanfield,  
Johnson, Pou and Burgess**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes constitutional amendment to make State trustee of public natural resources and guarantee to the people other environmental rights.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2023)**



	YES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ENSURE THE PEOPLE’S ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS</b></p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to grant every person the right to a clean and healthy environment? The amendment would also require the State to protect public natural resources.</p>
	NO	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>This amendment provides that every person has a constitutional right to a clean environment. This includes the right to clean air, pure water, and healthy habitats. The amendment would require the State to preserve public natural resources. The State would also be required to prevent others from destroying or damaging public natural resources.</p>

1

2

SCHEDULE

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

This constitutional amendment shall become part of the Constitution on March 1 next following the general election at which it is approved by the voters.

This concurrent resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution that would grant every person the right to a clean and healthy environment, and make the State the trustee of all public natural resources.

Specifically, the proposed constitutional amendment would provide that every person has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic qualities of the environment. The amendment provides that the State shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.

The amendment would also provide that the State’s public natural resources, including its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all of the people, including both present and future generations. The State would serve as trustee of these resources and have a duty to conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.

Finally, the amendment would provide that the rights established in the amendment are self-executing, and are in addition to any rights conferred by the public trust doctrine or common law.