

Testimony in support of H5732: Rhode Island Green Amendment

George Faucher, 105 Edgewater Rd, Narragansett RI 02882

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2025

House Committee on State Government and Elections

State of Rhode Island General Assembly

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rhode Island Green Amendment and to urge you to vote in favor of its passage. As a resident of Narragansett, I've been a lifelong advocate for environmental stewardship and conservation, from championing animal rights to promoting sustainable practices in my home and community. Currently, I serve as the co-chair of the Peace Dale Congregational Green Team, where I work to inspire and implement local environmental initiatives.

Rhode Island has long been a leader in environmental progress, from protecting our coastal resources to advancing renewable energy. But despite these efforts, we continue to face significant challenges—rising sea levels, worsening air quality, and pollution that threatens both our health and economy. At a time when federal environmental protections are being weakened, it is more important than ever for Rhode Island to take a stand and ensure that clean air, safe water, and a stable climate are recognized as fundamental rights.

The people of Rhode Island, including future generations, deserve constitutional protection for their inalienable human rights to a clean, safe, and healthy environment—specifically, clean water, breathable air, a stable climate, and thriving ecosystems. The Green Amendment provides an opportunity for all of us—citizens and government leaders alike—to work together to strengthen environmental protections. It empowers our elected officials with a constitutional foundation to prioritize the environment in decision-making, ensuring that the health and well-being of Rhode Islanders are always a guiding consideration.

The Rhode Island Green Amendment would:

- Recognize the inalienable rights of all Rhode Islanders, including future generations, to clean air and water, a healthy environment, a life-supporting climate, and the preservation of the state's natural resources.
- Affirm that Rhode Island's public natural resources belong to all the people and that government officials have a responsibility to conserve and maintain these resources equitably for the benefit of all, including future generations.
- Ensure these rights receive the same legal recognition and protection as other fundamental human, civil, and political rights enshrined in our state constitution.


While Rhode Island's constitution grants the right to enjoy and exercise access to the state's fisheries and shores under Article 1, Sections 16 and 17, these provisions do not provide explicit

and enforceable rights to clean air, safe drinking water, or a stable climate. The Green Amendment will bridge this gap by affirming that every Rhode Islander has a fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment—complementing and strengthening existing legal protections.

By supporting this amendment, you have the chance to reinforce Rhode Island's leadership and commitment to a sustainable future. This is an opportunity to take an essential step to protect our communities, health, and economy from environmental degradation while ensuring that future generations inherit a Rhode Island that is just as beautiful and life-sustaining as it is today.

I urge you to stand with the people of Rhode Island and support the Green Amendment. Thank you for your time and for your leadership in securing a healthier, more sustainable future for our state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Faucher", written in a cursive style.

George Faucher

April 1, 2025