

April 3, 2025
Regarding House Resolution 5732
Green Amendment for Rhode Island

I became a great-grandmother last week. This momentous life event has caused me to reflect more deeply on the environment my great-grandson will inherit. The threats to the environment are real; the time to take action is now.

I believe the people of Rhode Island, including future generations, deserve a Green Amendment that will give constitutional protection to our inalienable, human rights to a clean, safe and healthy environment, including our water, air, climate, and ecosystems.

The Rhode Island Green Amendment would recognize:

- the inalienable rights of all the people of Rhode Island, including future generations, to clean air and water, a clean and healthy environment, a life-supporting climate, and to the preservation of the state's natural resources.
- that Rhode Island's public natural resources belong to all the people, and that all government officials in the state of Rhode Island have a duty to conserve and maintain these resources equitably for the benefit of all the people, including future generations; and
- that these rights must be given the same legal recognition and protection as other constitutionally recognized human, civil, and political rights we hold dear.

I am a member of the Peace Dale Congregational Church's Green Team. I urge you to support the Rhode Island Green Amendment. Thank you.

Mary-Gail Smith