EEF Factsheet:
Let’s Get the NJ Green Amendment on the November Ballot!

EEF is working with Green Amendment for the Generations and other groups, to add an amendment to the NJ Constitution in November, to include Environmental Rights in the same way that speech, property, religion and gun rights are constitutionally protected. Known as the “Green Amendment,” the amendment would protect the rights of current and future generations to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, and ecologically healthy habitats.

Find your Senator & Assembly reps at https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/districts. Then, see if they are listed as a cosponsor by googling NJ ACR72 or NJ SCR15. If they are a co-sponsor, ask them to support a senate hearing. If they are not, ask them to become a co-sponsor. Currently, 50 supporters are Dems &11 Repubs!

Text of the Environmental Rights/Green Amendment, followed by a brief explanation:

“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 esthetic qualities of the environment. The State shall not infringe upon these rights, by action or inaction.”

- Allows lawsuits if the state fails to act or acts in a way that allows unconstitutional levels of degradation or damage to the environment.
- Provides that all communities, regardless of race, ethnicity, or income have the same rights to a clean & healthy environment.
- Could be a tool to help address hazardous sites, PFAS, industrial air pollution, etc., in already overburdened communities.
- Can be used to preserve green spaces.

“The State’s public natural resources, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of all the people, including both present and future generations. The State shall serve as trustee of these resources and shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people.”

Like the trustee for children inheriting an estate, the state is obligated to act in the interest of present and future residents (rather than corporations) fulfilling the fiduciary duties of prudence, loyalty, and impartiality in managing the state’s natural resources.

“This paragraph and the rights stated herein are (1) self-executing, and (2) shall be in addition to any rights conferred by the public trust doctrine or common law.”

Once added, all government officials will be constitutionally bound to protect our environmental rights. No additional laws are needed to activate environmental rights, they become defensible and actionable by virtue of the fact that they are in the constitution.