



**Interreligious Eco-Justice Network**  
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## RE: HJ 36, A Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment Concerning Environmental Rights

Dear Senator Flexer, Rep. Blumenthal, and esteemed members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of *HJ 36, A Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment Concerning Environmental Rights*.

The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network is a faith-based environmental organization that works with religious communities on environmental issues. Our work with them spans a wide range of topics, including energy efficiency, pollinator gardens, and greening their congregations with non-toxic cleaning products. Regardless of the activity, people of faith are very concerned about how we care for the planet and how our actions impact its most vulnerable inhabitants. These concerns have deep theological roots. Every faith tradition speaks about the importance of responsible and compassionate stewardship and of the need to protect and preserve the gift of our natural resources.

On behalf of the Board of IREJN and our members, I urge you to support HJ 36, which would enshrine the right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment into our state Constitution. Sadly, the environment has been politicized in recent years, but there is nothing political about clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and clean land to grow food. We all need and deserve these basic rights, but too often, they are threatened by chemicals and pollution, which pollute our air, damage our water quality, and render our land too toxic for gardening.

An amendment to the state Constitution would require officials to give environmental protection high priority when legislating, regulating, or making official decisions. It would provide CT residents with an avenue to address ongoing environmental hazards. It is worth noting that, in the three states that have adopted an Environmental Rights Amendment, there have been zero frivolous lawsuits.

This resolution would provide Connecticut voters with the chance to decide for themselves if they would like the amendment added to the Connecticut state constitution. Please allow the voters to vote on this important issue.

Thank you for your time.

Very best regards,

Terri Eickel, Executive Director