

## **I Support the People of Washington Having a True and Enforceable Right to Pure Water, Clean Air, a Stable Climate and Healthy Environment**

While our Washington constitution recognizes and protects many important human, civil and political rights – such as our rights to free speech, freedom of religion, property rights and due process – it does not recognize and protect the inalienable rights of all Washingtonians to a clean and healthy environment. Passage of a Washington Green Amendment will raise up our environmental rights to be legally on par with the other human, civil and political rights which are protected from government infringement.

With a Washington Green Amendment, we will ensure and strengthen environmental protection; we will have a stronger check on government actions that could allow our water, air, soil, climate and critical natural resources to be degraded in dangerous and devastating ways; we will strengthen environmental justice protections and ensure generational environmental protection; we will strengthen the cultural and health values of the environment; we will ensure government is protecting environmental rights equitably regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status; we will be ensuring that informed government decisionmaking is a constitutional pre-requisite to taking action that could infringe upon environmental rights including accounting for the pollution and industrial burdens a community already bears, relevant science, and the impacts of proposed action; and in those instances when these mandates and constitutional environmental rights are infringed upon, we will have strengthened our position for securing needed government action.

Given that we all depend upon pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments to support and sustain our healthy lives and a healthy economy, we, the undersigned, call for the passage of a Washington Green Amendment to raise up environmental rights to our constitution's Bill of Rights by Amending Article I of our State Constitution to ensure:

- (1) The people of Washington, including future generations, have the right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the environment.
- (2) That the state, including each branch, agency, and political subdivision, shall serve as trustee of the natural resources of the state and shall conserve, protect, and maintain these resources for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come.
- (3) That the environmental rights of all the people of Washington are recognized as inherent, inalienable, and indefeasible, and shall be equitably protected for all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, geography, wealth, or socioeconomic status.

Respectfully,