



## Memorandum of Support

**A.6279/S.5287 Proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment.**

Protect the Adirondacks supports A.6279/S.5287, which seeks to amend Article 1 of the NYS Constitution to provide a basic right for New Yorkers for clean air, water and healthful environment.

The new Amendment reads:

Section 1. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That article 1 of the constitution be amended by adding a new section 19 to read as follows: §19. ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS. EACH PERSON SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT.

§ 2. Resolved (if the Senate concur), That the foregoing amendment be referred to the first regular legislative session convening after the next succeeding general election of members of the assembly, and, in conformity with section 1 of article 19 of the constitution, be published for 3 months previous to the time of such election.

Passage of this amendment would recognize the important principle that environmental protection and the right to a clean environment are basic rights enjoyed by New Yorkers, similar to freedom of speech, public education, religious worship, and assembly, among other core rights. This legislation would constitute “1<sup>st</sup> passage” of a new constitutional amendment. “2nd passage” would take place in the next successive Legislature, most likely in 2019. The amendment would then need to be approved by the voters in November 2019.

**For all of these reasons, Protect the Adirondacks strongly supports A.6279/S.5287.**

**For more information:**

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**May 20, 2017**