



**RE: ACA 16 (Bryan), Environmental Rights – Support**

Dear Assemblymember Bryan,

We are writing to express our Support for ACA 16 - Environmental Rights. This bill would amend the California Constitution to declare that the people have a right to clean air and water and a healthy environment.

For many years, California has led the nation in combating the effects of climate change. From statutorily protecting the right to affordable drinking water, to advancing statewide air quality and emissions standards, California continues to lead. However, despite these efforts, the California Constitution still has no permanent environmental language in it. In fact, many other states are ahead of California in their efforts to establish the right to a healthy environment for all residents. These “Green Amendments” are becoming commonplace for states seeking to further protect and affirm environmental rights.

The California Constitution declares various inalienable rights of the people, including the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, acquire, possess, and protect property, and pursue and obtain safety, happiness, and privacy. This measure will amend the State’s constitution to enshrine the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for every Californian.

This constitutional amendment will codify the right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for every Californian. It will provide a foundation for the laws the legislature has fought to pass and provide a permanent guidepost for our longevity and sustainability. Moreover, ACA 16 has the potential to ensure that 1 in 8 Americans has the fundamental and constitutionally protected right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment.

ACA 16 recognizes the importance of a healthy environment, clean air and water for all California's. The constitutional amendment unequivocally uplifts the health and environmental rights to those living in environmental justice communities who are disproportionately people of color and low-income Californians. Additionally, this constitutional right ensures transformative environmental legislation passed does not suffer from institutional rollbacks.

As California continues to make equitable environmental progress, it is imperative that we join the growing list of states who have moved to enshrine environmental rights in their constitutions.

**For these reasons the undersigned organizations are in strong support of ACA 16, and urge an ‘aye’ vote.**

Melissa Romero  
Legislative Affairs Manager  
**California Environmental Voters (Sponsor)**

Will Brieger  
Chair, Legislation & Policy Team  
**350 Sacramento**

David Diaz  
Executive Director  
**Active San Gabriel Valley**

Elle C. Chen  
Senior Policy & Campaign Manager  
**Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)**

Tomas Valadez  
CA Policy Associate  
**Azul**

Nicholas Mueller  
President  
**California Association of Local Conservation Corps**

Susan Jordan  
Executive Director  
**California Coastal Protection Network**

Cody Phillips  
Staff Attorney  
**California Coastkeeper Alliance**

Raquel Mason  
Policy Manager  
**California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) Action**

Mechelle PereaRyan  
Board Member  
**California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice**

Analise Rivero  
Associate Director of Policy  
**California Trout**

Jane Sellen  
Co-Director  
**Californians for Pesticide Reform**

Dan Ress  
Senior Attorney  
**Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment**

Catherine Garoupa  
Executive Director  
**Central Valley Air Quality Coalition**

Andria Ventura  
Legislative and Policy Director  
**Clean Water Action**

Suzanne Hume  
Educational Director & Founder  
**CleanEarth4Kids.org**

Janet Cox  
CEO  
**Climate Action California**

Kathy Schaeffer  
Legislative Coordinator  
**Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley**

Jonathan Parfrey  
Executive Director  
**Climate Resolve**

Bill Magavern  
Policy Director  
**Coalition for Clean Air**

Ashley Overhouse  
Water Policy Advisor  
**Defenders of Wildlife**

Linda Krop  
Chief Counsel  
**Environmental Defense Center**

Katelyn Roedner Sutter  
California Director  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Bill Allayaud  
Calif. Director of Gov't Affairs  
**Environmental Working Group**

Catherine Dodd PhD RN  
Policy Advisor  
**FACTS Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety**

Miriam Eide  
Executive Director  
**Fossil Free California**

Jim Lindburg  
Legislative Consultant  
**Friends Committee on Legislation of California**

Jann Dorman  
Executive Director  
**Friends of the River**

Kristen Murphy  
Co-founder, Partner  
**JAIDE Conservation Collective, LLC**

Olivia Seideman  
Climate Policy Coordinator  
**Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**

Regina Q. Banks  
Director  
**Lutheran Office of Public Policy-California**

Betsy Reifsnider  
Sacramento Policy Associate  
**Mono Lake Committee**

Arnold Sowell, Jr.  
Executive Director  
**NextGen California**

Asha Sharma  
Organizing Co-Director  
**Pesticide Action Network**

Matthew Baker  
Policy Director  
**Planning and Conservation League**

Matthew Marsom  
Chief Program Policy and Government Relations Officer  
**Public Health Institute**

Pauline Seales  
Organizer  
**Santa Cruz Climate Action Network**

Jason John  
Acting Director  
**Sierra Club California**

Lis Olaerts  
30x30 Coordinator  
**Sierra Nevada Alliance**

Ellie Cohen  
CEO  
**The Climate Center**

Elizabeth Forsburg Pardi  
California Policy Director  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Phil Glosserman  
Facilitator  
**Third Act SoCal**

Daniel Barad  
Western States Policy Manager  
**Union of Concerned Scientists**

Bianca Lopez  
Co-Founder  
**Valley Improvement Projects**

Cara Robin  
President  
**West LA Democratic Club**

Victoria Rome  
Director of California Government Affairs  
**Natural Resources Defense Counsel**

