

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 370 OF 2020

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS BRAYMER, DICKINSON, HOGAN, BEATY, MERLINO, SIMPSON AND STROUGH

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A “GREEN AMENDMENT” TO THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the right of New Yorkers to clean water, air and a healthy environment is not given any protection in the State of New York’s Constitution, and

WHEREAS, clean water, air, a stable climate and healthy environment are fundamental to sustaining healthy lives and a healthy economy, and

WHEREAS, New York has a long history of environmental protection and leadership to protect the New Yorker’s health and environment, and

WHEREAS, while environmental laws are designed to manage pollution, clean up and remediate contamination, and conserve natural resources, these laws do not support the notion that clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment are fundamental, inalienable rights, and

WHEREAS, there are still a multitude of issues threatening New York’s water, air, natural resources, such as climate change, emerging contaminants, such as PFAS and PFOA, in our drinking water supplies, poor to failing air quality, and disproportionate environmental impacts to environmental justice and frontline communities, and

WHEREAS, clean air, a healthy environmental, and clean lakes, rivers, waterbodies, and their associated watersheds constitute valuable assets for Warren County’s drinking water, recreation, tourism, agriculture, flood control, fishing and community health, as well as essential habitat for plant and animal life, and

WHEREAS, in recognition that Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Senator David Carlucci sponsored Green Amendment Bills ([A.2064/S.2072](#)) that passed the New York State Legislature in April 2019, which stated that: “proposing an amendment to article 1 of the constitution, in relation to the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment”, and

WHEREAS, in recognition that to enact a Green Amendment in New York State Constitution the above mentioned bill must be passed by the New York State Legislature in 2021 and then be voted on as part of a statewide referendum, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Warren County hereby supports the Green Amendment Bill ([A.2064/S.2072](#)) that passed the New York State Legislature in 2019, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Warren County supports the second passage of the Green Amendment Bill by the New York Legislature in 2021 so that the voters may choose whether to add the right to a clean air, water and healthful environment to the Bill of Rights of the New York State Constitution, and be it further

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RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Elizabeth O'C. Little, Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec, and the New York State Association of Counties.