

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 103

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 1996

By Assemblywoman WEINBERG, Assemblymen R. SMITH,
Rooney and Zisa

- 1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to
2 propose an amendment to the United States Constitution to assure the
3 protection of the air, water and natural resources of the United States.
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- 5 WHEREAS, The United States Constitution gives present and future
6 generations a structure for ordered liberty that has served this country well;
7 and
- 8 WHEREAS, The historic decisions made by the Constitution's framers,
9 augmented from time to time by amendment, give us a Constitution which
10 permits each generation to overcome the great societal disturbances of its
11 time; and
- 12 WHEREAS, As the custodians of the health of our children and of future
13 generations, we are obligated to protect them from threats to their fight to
14 breathe clean air, drink pure water, avoid contamination, and share in the
15 spiritual regeneration that comes from wilderness and nature, just as
16 previous generations were obligated to enhance freedom, justice and
17 prosperity; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Historically, the leaders of this country have not protected its
19 natural resources, valuing instead the growth in population, the expansion
20 of the economy, the migration west to open the continent to settlement,
21 mining and farming, because of the seeming unlimited wealth of the county's
22 natural resources; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Federal laws to protect and improve the environment were passed
24 in the 1970's and have fallen short of accomplishing their goals of making
25 our air safe to breath, our waters fishable and swimmable, and our lands
26 clean and healthy; and
- 27 WHEREAS, The nation's environmental laws have been undermined by
28 Congress's failure to provide funding and oversight for the vigorous
29 enforcement of those laws; and
- 30 WHEREAS, Support for strong environmental laws ebbs and flows based upon
31 the political and economic climate, thus demonstrating a need for our
32 commitment to the public health and environmental security of our citizens
33 and of future generations to be accorded constitutional status; and
- 34 WHEREAS, A constitutional remedy is necessary to accomplish this goal even

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3 Memorializes Congress to propose amendment to U.S. Constitution to protect

4 the right to a clean environment.