

January 30 iSOS Meeting

- Roberta has a letter on the SFNM learning page today, Jan 30. She's been working with Eliza Sultan for many years on this project
- State Education Secretary Kurt Steinhaus stepped down from his post.
- A moment to acknowledge the death of Tyre Nichols. And the history of murdering people in this country. Santa Fe Chapter from NAACP supporting our bill SB 119.
- Maya Van Rossum author of The Green Amendment is our speaker
- Letters:
 - PP around testing, treatment, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases
 - New Energy Economy - written for center for biological diversity

Maya van Rossum

PRIMER and for more information: <https://nmgreenamendment.org/overview/>

- Purpose: to add to bill of rights section for the right of all people to a safe and clean environment.
- Why a Constitutional Amendment?
 - Lifts up our rights offering human and civil rights on things we hold dear - like the air we breathe and the water we drink, etc.
 - We are not asking or seeking for special treatment. They should be the same as other fundamental rights like free speech, right to bear arms, etc.
 - Four parts
 - Recognizing the rights of all people...
 - Making clear that state and all entities are the trustees of these natural resources
 - Self activating. Makes clear that a remedy is not a pay out money. It's about correcting the wrong.
 - Added additional language offers clarity. This protection has always protected, but these rights have to be protected for all communities.
- She has a new book and stories including those from NM.
- Her asks
 - Individ SOS sign on to the Green Amendment.. Our logo would appear on all their communications.
 - Sen. Wirth needs some attention. In order to encourage him to schedule hearings. Falling victim to false assertions to industry negative reviews. GIVE US the OPPTY. We just want a vote on it
 - Help share and spread the word
- Story from her book:
 - Dormant uranium mine has been allowed dormant. Mt. Taylor Mine.
 - The operator, Rio Grande Services convinced the govt that they were planning to mine in the future and need not clean it up.
 - Getting the govt to buy into this farce.
 - Impacts to native communities are great.
 - The Mine closed at end of 2019 and needs to be cleaned. If there had been a GA this wouldn't have happened to Akima and Navajo communities could have demonstrated to the judge that this was contaminating.

- Rachel questions
 - She is on board for NM ACLU and National. They were not interested in it. She doesn't see any engagement from Civil Rights community. What is the diff between Civil rights and Environmental rights: Peter Wirth must have a powerful reason for not getting behind this. Is it because 2024 will be a contentious year? Is this a political liability.
 - 3 other states with GA. Have there been litigations on this from the other states. We may be agree it's important but might not viable.
 - Maya: Wirth - he was supportive. Until the Holland and Hart memo. Totally misrepresented how the GA would work. We don't know.
- Rachel suggests she should find out why he is not for it.
- What have other states done. Most states have Environmental Protection in their constitutions, but it's not the same as a Green Amendment as a CA.
- 3 states have CAs
 - PA, since 1971. It only got legal life in 2013 in response to a legal action brought by her organization.
 - Montana - 1972.
 - NY Nov 2021.
- Through advocacy and litigation what changes have we seen?
- If you are an advocate for EP, it's not as serious as CA where state officers are duty bound to respect the CA.
 - On legal side - when a law is passed by the legis, you are finished. BIPOC and other serious ramifications are adjudicated by law.
 - In PA in 2013, there was a pro fracking law passed by Gov. Then there were waivers put in place waivers to allow fracking within 300ft of homes. Waivers put in place was challenged. This law was so egregious that it rose to the level of CA abuse. Went to conservative Supreme Court and it was decided that it would violate the CA.
 - In Montana - industrial gold mining situations gave permits to these operations. Based on Montan's GA, it was discovered that the govt failed to consider these ramifications. They had to fix the permits. Those industrial operations in those dangerous place did not go forward.
 - In PA, suburban. People advocated for that a forest should be protected. Several years of advocacy and the CA was used to reject. We have a constitutional obligations, etc.
 - PA: highly toxic site. State Govt had known about it. Your failure to clean up this site is in violation of the CA. Until a living thriving GA has helped tremendously.
 - Resource page on <https://nmgreenamendment.org/overview/>
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- Question: money damages are not intended in the amendment.
 - Make clear about equitable obligation.
 - Concern from the Acequia Association: State, County, and municipality. McQueen wanted a merging of language wanted re- wording of a special article. Article 20, section 21.
- McQueen - he ultimately came on as an amendment last year. He asked more questions recently. He made an observation: the State is meant includes al levels of govt. Likely for clarity there will be a change to it.
- States are focusing on CAs because the Fed Govt has failed us.
 - Maya - Supreme Court about bodily autonomy showed how if it's not in the bill it can be stripped away.

- Where is NM at the forefront about GA? She believes the people in NM needs this CA. This why she is disappointed to hear environmental advocates say we have to repeat this bill. Unintended consequences?
- Lawsuit?s Less than 9 suits have happened. The Constitution just gives more info on what's happening or not?
- We are much better spokespeople than Maya is. She is here to inform and empower us. If we don't want a hearing - it's our decision.
- Gloria - does it go after corporate bankruptcies or those companies that have left operations fallow. No - this is just a restraint on gov action on rights like speech, firearms, etc.
- Joyce - could Maya list five things we can do
 - Contact McAQueen to please put up a hearing on GA as soon amendment and sign on as a co sign. Need to get through the house first.
 - Contact Wirth and urge his leadership on this as well as Mimi Stewart. Please use your leadership to secure swift hearings.
 - Urge people to contact Sally Rogers. Article and Section 21
- NMgreenamendment.org.
- Liza: we hear that CAs are hard to do and a heavy lift. How expensive.
 - NY CA passed by 71%
- Other states: Hawaii Wash Delaware Maine Florida Michigan Nevada and Texas , AZ,

A CA says that all branches of govt must adhere to going to court to bringing a legal challenge. The ultimate power lies with the people. Not the leg.