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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
AMENDMENT XXVI

1. Every person has an inalienable right to a clean, healthful, and decent environment.
2. Any citizen adversely affected by the environmental activity of any other person or agency, public or private, shall be entitled to redress in an appropriate state court, Article VI of the Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.
3. Any person or agency, public or private, using or exploiting common environmental resources shall, if it is substantially challenged in a civil proceeding that his activities will upset the natural ecological balance, be required to demonstrate affirmatively that his action will not redound to the detriment of the public or generations yet unborn.
4. Every state shall have power to place higher standards of regulation upon the use of common environmental resources than those that may have been provided by federal law, Article VI of the Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding.
5. The Congress shall pass laws or taxes as are necessary to preserve or restore the environment from contamination or degradation by chemical, biological, radiological, thermal, or other pollution. In addition, the Congress shall undertake to acquire and preserve open land, wilderness spaces, and scenic areas.

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