Broadly put, I want to argue that implementing Rights of Nature through local democracy is:

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> > a) more efficient at protecting the environment than implementing Rights of Nature at the national level (in great part because the enforcement of locally-enacted rights of nature is done more rigorously than at the national level. Also, the fact that local democracies are enacting Rights of Nature specifically, and not another type of regulation, also enhances the efficiency of the environmental protection).

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> > b) setting us up for the necessary transition from capitalism to "economic democracy" (Schweickart's concept)/socialism if we want to live in a truly sustainable way and survive. (Local democracies creating RON laws are an important step in this direction because they promote small-scale community engagement and small-scale lawmaking, which deeply challenges the global/large-scale capitalist way of doing things. This move from large-scale to small-scale is believed to be crucial by many environmentalists/socialists to move past capitalism).

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> > c) The process involved in getting Rights of Nature enacted through local democracy is especially successful in bringing communities closer together and bridging political divides that seem to be tearing apart communities and countries. (I believe this aspect of bringing individuals closer together is supremely important in being able to protect the environment, but also in transitioning to a smaller-scale economy and non-capitalist social system).