

To: Find your politician's email + address [here](#) (USA)

[Insert name of govt. body/authority here; e.g. City of San Francisco]

Subject: Support for [Insert name of govt. body/authority here; e.g. City of San Francisco] to Recognize Rights of Nature

Dear [Council Member/Representative/Mayor]

As a constituent of [location], I'm writing to you with an urgent request to **consider implementing a Rights of Nature resolution/ordinance/law** within [insert name of jurisdiction; e.g. San Francisco or California]. Our community is increasingly affected by the impacts of the climate crisis and broader environmental degradation which harms the people and biodiversity of [location]. [Add an environmental concern of the community or environmental action your representative recently took and how Rights of Nature might fit in]

Implementing a Rights of Nature [resolution/ordinance/law] would legally recognize Nature's inherent rights, including rights to exist, persist, and regenerate its vital cycles. A Rights of Nature [resolution/ordinance/law] would recognize Nature as a rights holder and grant Nature legal standing, providing Nature a voice and legal representation in decision-making and in cases where Nature is harmed.

A template [resolution/ordinance/law] to recognize the Rights of Nature can be found [here](#). **Would you be willing to introduce Rights of Nature in the next [city/county council meeting/state General Assembly]?**

In passing this [resolution/ordinance/law], we have the opportunity to join the growing movement of communities across the United States and abroad who are speaking up on behalf of the Rights of Nature, and by doing so, helping to prevent further harm to Nature while also seeking to restore the ecosystems that humanity is a part of. For example:

- Santa Monica, California passed a [Sustainability Rights Ordinance](#) recognizing the human right to a healthy environment and Nature's own right to be healthy, giving citizens the authority to protect Nature's rights on behalf of the groundwater aquifers, atmospheric systems, marine waters and native species within the boundaries of the city.
- Crestone, Colorado passed a [resolution](#) recognizing intrinsic Rights of Nature, joining the growing number of communities, cities, and nations which have done so.
- Over two dozen US cities and municipalities including [Pittsburgh, PA](#); [Orange County, FL](#); and [Nederland, Colorado](#) have all recognized and passed forms of Rights of Nature legislation.
- Sovereign Tribal Nations have recognized the Rights of Nature, including the [Yurok Tribe and Nez Perce Tribe](#) recognizing the rights of the Klamath and Snake Rivers, respectively.

Over thirty-five countries have also embraced Rights of Nature at the national level, either constitutionally, through legislation, or through the courts; for example, [Ecuador](#), [Mexico](#), [India](#), [Colombia](#), and [Panama](#) have all implemented Rights of Nature at various levels of local, regional, and

national government, leading to landmark environmental cases preventing further harm to Nature and restoring critical ecosystems.

Implementing a Rights of Nature [resolution/ordinance/law] in [location] could have similar success in reorienting our legal systems towards a proactive approach to environmental protection and restoration.

Rights of Nature legislation provides an opportunity to address the root causes of the world's environmental crises – antiquated legal and economic mindsets which treat Nature as property subject to human exploitation. Implementing Rights of Nature in [location] would advance a more proactive approach to environmental protection which includes the interests of Nature into our legal system and which would better support Earth's life-support systems.

Establishing Rights of Nature would:

- (1) Provide Nature legal standing and a voice in local decision-making
- (2) Lead to a greater protection of human rights and the advancement of environmental justice
- (3) Restore a relationship of care and stewardship with Nature

A Rights of Nature [resolution/ordinance/law] in [location] **provides an opportunity to reorient current environmental law and practice to broadly address our environmental crises and national goals** (including the 30x30 conservation movement, solutions to the climate crisis, the advancement of human health and wellbeing, and [add local environmental goal]).

Implementing a Rights of Nature [resolution/ordinance/law] is crucial to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for future generations of all life while aiding our solutions to the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. By prioritizing Nature's health, Rights of Nature will collectively protect human rights, including those of marginalized communities that experience disproportionate impacts of climate change and environmental pollution, by contributing to the protection of ecosystems that support all life.

For more information, please visit Earth Law Center's Earth Legislator [website](#) for template laws, resources, [a community toolkit](#), and more information. Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of Nature,

[Name]

[Email]

[Address]