



New Hampshire Community Rights Network

NHCRN Update

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The BWPC Receives Endorsement of the NCRN!

Congratulations to The Barrington Waterways Protection Committee!

Barrington Waterways Protection Committee is the first in the nation to receive the [endorsement of the National Community Rights Network!](#)

In providing its support for the Community Bill of Rights Ordinance, the National Community Rights Network (NCRN) considered the efforts of the Barrington Waterways Protection Committee – the local group organizing to bring the ordinance to a vote. Since 2012, the committee has worked to protect the Isinglass River and surrounding waterways from gravel mining and water extraction.

The BWPC has dedicated itself to education, outreach, grassroots organizing, and campaigning, despite strong opposition from industry supporters. Barrington residents are not giving up! They plan to run their Ordinance again for 2016 and see the endorsement of the NCRN as a boost of support for their undeniable efforts in advancing Community Rights.

The NCRN is composed of representatives from seven statewide networks that have grown out of the grassroots organizing of CELDF, which has assisted communities to advance Community Rights at the local level for 20 years. Nearly 200 communities across the U.S. have adopted CELDF-drafted Community Bills of Rights, protecting community rights to clean air and water, sustainable food, energy, and other systems, and the right to local self-governance.

If you would like to learn how your community can apply for the endorsement of the NCRN, please request more information about the endorsement application process [here](#).



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News from the NH Community Rights Network -

[RIGHT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT, LSR# 2352 HCACR](#) **Representative Susan Emerson of Cheshire County, District 11 has submitted the NHCRN proposed language for a constitutional amendment!**

The NHCRN proposed **Right of Local Community Self-Government** amendment, if passed, would add to Part First, Bill of Rights of the New Hampshire State Constitution, [Article 40. The Right of Local Community Self-Government](#). We each have inherent and unalienable rights that are a result of being born as a human being. **Rights are not gifts from government!** Local Community Self-Government is the collective exercise of our inherent and unalienable rights to protect the health, safety and welfare of communities and our ecosystems. We are not asking, begging, or pleading – we are insisting those communities across New Hampshire that enact rights-based local laws have their rights recognized within the New Hampshire State Constitution.

The [NHCRN Legislative Committee](#) has been diligently working to educate representatives about the need for systemic change; to help them understand communities currently have no recognized authority under our current structure of law, to create local laws that would prevent unwanted and dangerous corporate projects. Representative Emerson immediately saw the value of the proposed amendment and agreed to sponsor it. Email [Representative Emerson](#) and let her know you appreciate her willingness to stand up and defend the communities of NH by recognizing sustainable environmental and economic development can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make such decisions.

New Hampshire is one of the smallest states, yet we have the largest legislature - we have 24 Senators and 400 House Representatives. We must convince 3/5 of *each House and Senate* to send a proposed amendment to be voted on by the people. A vote of 2/3 of qualified voters is then required to ratify the amendment.

Your participation is essential in calling for the proposed Right of Local Self-Government amendment. Legislators are moved by their constituents, not by a few people representing the NHCRN. Reach out to your representatives and encourage them to protect your inherent and unalienable rights by cosponsoring the submitted [Right of Local Community Self-Government, LSR# 2352 HCACR](#). Representative Susan Emerson filed the measure as “open” – meaning any legislator can sign on their support for this amendment at the Legislative Offices between now and the 30th of October. **They must SIGN the LSR by the deadline of October 30th.** The measure is limited in the number of cosponsors permitted (all 24 senators, and about 10 house reps can cosponsor), but allows for an unlimited number of signatories in support. **The more support, the better!**

Once the deadline for legislators to sign off on submitted LSRs passes, the measure is assigned to a committee, and should receive a Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution number (CACR#) sometime in January of 2016 when the new session begins.

If you have any questions, or need assistance in contacting your representatives regarding the [Right of Local Community Self-Government, LSR# 2352 HCACR](#), please send an email to the [NHCRN Legislative Committee](#).

WE ARE THE ONES WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!

www.nhcommunityrights.org

Prepare for
Marathon,
not a Sprint!



[Right of Local Community Self-Government](#)



News from Across the Nation -

Recent Article by Thomas Linzey, “[The Myth of Community Rights: Self-Governance has a Corporate Ceiling](#)” - “Nothing less than a mass movement of people, out from under the spell woven by the unholy alliance of corporate few and their legislative lackeys, will be able to change the basic elements of a system that stand today in stark contrast to the governmental system imagined by the American Revolutionaries. It’s time to imagine that system once again, and to pick the fights that will make it real.”

Colorado Community Rights Network ([COCRN](#)) has submitted to the state for review and comment the language for a Community Rights Constitutional Amendment to be placed on the 2016 ballot.

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“[Putting Corporate Power In Perspective](#)” - Before America’s colonists declared themselves independent from British domination in 1776, the motherland’s corporations dominated their trade. It took a revolution to end British control and the settlers’ fear of corporate power.

Oregonians for Community Rights - The Oregon Community Rights Network (ORCRN) has submitted a proposed constitutional amendment to the state’s Elections Division. The citizen’s initiative effort, which will be run by [Oregonians for Community Rights](#), will be out gathering the needed 1000 signatures for the required administrative review process to take place. The group’s aim is to be on the November 2016 ballot.

Community Rights Paper #7 - [Why Corporate "Rights" Matter](#) – What are Community Rights? Where did they come from? Why do we need them?

Ohio Community Rights Network - The Mahoning County, OH, Board of Election takes its cue from the Ohio Secretary of State and refuses to place Youngstown residents' charter amendment initiative banning fracking on the November ballot. Residents will challenge the decision. [Read more >](#)

Exciting News from the NCRN - The NCRN is meeting for a weekend retreat in Colorado in October. At Snow Mountain Ranch they will sign their declaration, they will lay out a strategy for success and will form a bond that will make us unbeatable! Thomas Linzey will be joining them for this important event to share his vision and his wisdom! Please help them make this happen by donating [here](#). Thank you!!

Enjoy this Blast from the Past - article Gail Darrell wrote for the [Susquehanna](#) in 2010.

Spokane Worker Bill of Rights - The Spokane Worker Bill of Rights is an initiative of Envision Worker Rights – a sister political committee to Envision Spokane. The group is actively gathering signatures to place the Worker Bill of Rights on the November 2015 ballot. More information at [Envision Worker Rights](#)> and [here](#).

CELDF is Launching a New Website - and they need photos from NH! Any photos of local events, special meetings, public demonstrations, and so on – please email them to Emelyn at [CELDF](#). This is an ongoing need, so please keep the photos coming!

SAVE THE DATE!

NHCRN Quarterly Meeting

Right of Local Community Self-Government Amendment Sponsored!

NH Community Rights Resolution for 2016 Town Meeting!

Sunday, November 1st from 2 – 5pm

Daylight Savings! – Remember to turn your clocks back one hour ☺

Barnstead Town Hall, 108 S. Barnstead Rd., Center Barnstead, NH 03225

This is an opportunity to come together and share what is happening in our communities and across our state. This is an “open” meeting, so please feel free to invite friends and neighbors from your surrounding communities!

Light Refreshments will be Provided

If you have questions about the upcoming NHCRN Quarterly Meeting, or would like to make a suggestion for an Agenda Item, please email info@nhcommunityrights.org



New England
Grassroots
Environment Fund

[New England Grassroots Environmental Fund \(NEGEF\)](#)

RootShare news bulletins are a regular email service to highlight stories, trends, resources and events relevant to community volunteer groups across New England.

Seed grants are geared to groups launching new projects and/or evolving the scale of an existing project. Grants are intended to support community groups who represent the most exciting energy in the environmental movement that are not being reached by traditional funders. The Fund interprets the word ‘environment’ broadly and will provide funding for a wide range of activities. Whole systems-thinking is critical to initiatives focused on making our environment better, healthier and more sustainable.