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The United States is not close to being one of the leading countries in regard to the rights of nature movement. The United States government does not have any sort of rights of nature policy. However, some cities are advocating for these types of policies. In 2010, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania recognized the rights of nature movement and created a policy against banning fracking and shale gas drilling. In 2017, Lafayette, Colorado created the first Climate Bill of Rights. In 2019 Toledo, Ohio, created the Lake Erie Bill of Rights which gave the lake its own rights. Despite the creation of this policy, it was sadly considered “invalid” by a federal judge. Many cases revolving around the rights of our environment have been dismissed in the United States and the rights of nature movement are not taken that seriously or are at least not considered a priority to those in the government.

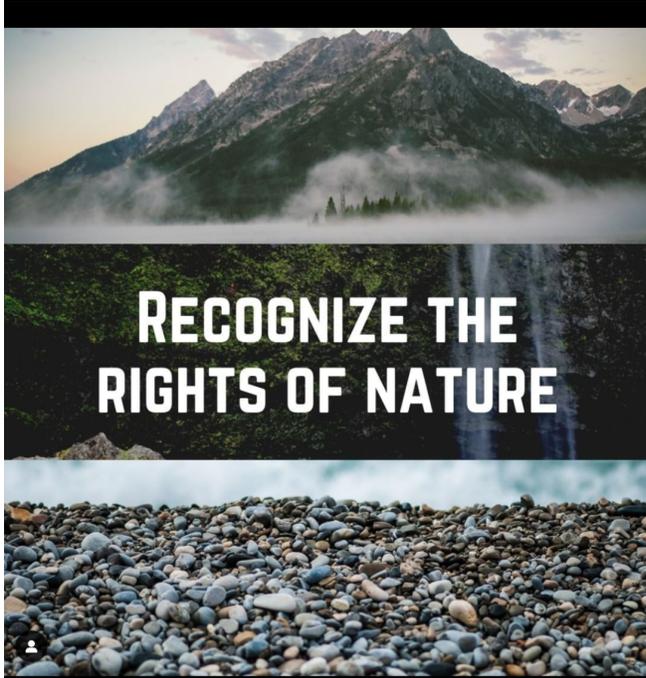
Compared to countries such as Ecuador, which have taken a lot of initiative and implemented this movement, the United States seems to need a lot of improvement. Ecuador became the first country to implement and recognize the rights of nature and has so far been, for the most part, successful. But even with this policy in place, there have still been lawsuits that were not in favor of the environment. In 2011, a construction company planned to build a road across a river in Ecuador and dump their waste into the river. Although the justice court was in favor of the environment, in the end, the lawsuit did not succeed and the construction company continued to do what they planned on the river. There are many ways that the rights of nature movement can evolve. People, specifically people who have a say in accepting and creating policies to help our environment, need to take this movement seriously and act now.

Luckily, there are many incredible people and organizations who are advocating for ecosystem laws. One organization is Right of Nature PH. Rights of Nature is a group that advocates for “change in human relationship with nature.” They advocate for laws and policies to be passed that are in favor of the protection of the environment. They helped launch the Rights of Nature campaign that promoted nature rights through a national caravan vehicle that traveled around the world. We can learn from this example of strong advocacy. Rights of Nature PH shows that creating change is possible; if more people become informed on the urgency of

creating these new policies, they can be created. We need more people who are willing to stand up for these policies and make them a reality, especially in the United States where ecosystem rights are not cared about as much as they should be.

Instagram Caption

The rights of nature law, “recognizes that an ecosystem has the right to exist, flourish, regenerate its vital cycles, and naturally evolve without human-caused disruption” (Columbia Climate School). The rights of nature movement advocates for these laws and policies that recognize the rights of nature to be implemented nationally in order to decrease the amount of harm to our environment. In the United States, the rights of nature movement is not taken that seriously and is not considered a priority by people who have a say in accepting and creating policies to help our environment. Many cases revolving around the rights of our environment have been dismissed in the US. Although there have been some initiatives created by cities in the United States, many of these have failed to pass and the United States does not seem to be close to implementing the rights of nature law nationally. An organization that is pushing for this policy is Right of Nature PH. Rights of Nature is a group that advocates for “change in human relationship with nature.” They advocate for laws and policies to be passed that are in favor of the protection of the environment. They helped launch the Rights of Nature campaign that promoted nature rights through a national caravan vehicle that traveled around the world. We can learn from this example of strong advocacy. Rights of Nature PH shows that creating change is possible; if more people become informed on the urgency of creating these new policies, they can be created. We need more people who are willing to stand up for these policies and make them a reality.



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