



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 132

OPEN QUESTION

During my first 2-years in the Legislature, I was a co-sponsor for TCI, CT Clean Air Act, AAC Climate Change Mitigation, banning chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids, the Long Island Blue Plan, the Bottle Bill, expanding anaerobic digesters, as well as expanding voter access via early voting and no excuse absentee ballots, along with many other critical environment and energy, and democracy-strengthening priorities. There are still so many initiatives left to tackle.

We didn't get the banning of neonicotinoids across the finish line, so I am committed to continuing to work on that initiative.

However, more broadly, I think there are many more opportunities for CT to lead in regional work, particularly now that the EPA has been so severely limited by the West Virginia v. EPA SCOTUS decision. While the Clean Air Act we passed this past session was important and a critical first step, I would like for us to revisit TCI-style legislation to hold producers accountable for their emissions.

Additionally, I would like to tackle more producer responsibility laws so that companies are responsible for the waste they put into our stream like what Maine has done. This past session, I introduced a bill to more responsibly dispose of home generated medical sharps and I've spoke with both DPH and DEEP about how we can model CA's producer responsibility component for this medical waste. I look forward to pursuing this legislation again this session.

Among many other priorities, including water conservation, continuing to expand renewable energy sources and storage, I also want to pursue funding for tree replanting to offset the aggressive and detrimental "vegetation management" policy of DOT.

I care about the environment because the status quo represents an existential threat to the health, wellbeing, and possible future for us, our children, and our grandchildren. We literally cannot continue on the path we are on and not only that,

we are beyond being able to take small incremental steps. Bold action is required to save our planet and likely, major lifestyle adjustments will need to be made by us all to get us where we need to be. Beyond just the critical need to protect our planet, our environment is a source of joy, recreation, and peace for us all and if we want to continue to enjoy our outdoors, we have to fiercely protect them.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
We cannot continue to make the mistakes of our past. These systemic policy failures have had severe life-altering consequences for disproportionately people of color. We must rectify our past failures.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
I addressed some EPR materials in my opening response but I would love to pursue EPR for single-use plastic producers. Additionally, I want to make composting the mainstream and start with a focus on our schools and food service industries.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
I am eager to ban styrofoam!

4) PFAS:

- Yes
I was a proud co-sponsor for the PFAS bans we enacted in 2021 and would happily support additional PFAS bans as well as additional funding for testing.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes
Without our pollinators, we will experience major food shortages. I think as a legislator, a big part of my responsibility is helping the public understand the ways in which all of these things are connected and have severe consequences to our ability to live.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

8) BEARS:

- yes

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes
YES!!!!

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
- I am a strong supporter of RCV and believe during these times of hyper partisanship, it would be a meaningful way to elect more centrist candidates and hopefully, dial down the temperature and rhetoric that has become the norm in our current political climate.