



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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Senate District 18

OPEN QUESTION

Open space preservation, clean water, saving LI sound, recycling, maintaining a habitat for wildlife and alternative energy sources are extremely important to me as an environmentalist and now policy maker. I will remain focused on these areas if re-elected with an emphasis on mitigation for the future impacts on wildlife habitats as well as the bottle bill and waste management for our state.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
The current Supreme Court decision undermines the EPA and that is a significant detriment to helping reduce polluting energy facilities throughout the US including CT. I will work to prevent pollution facilities in an environmental justice community as well as other areas of CT

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
It is shameful that nothing was done knowing the MIRA plant was going to close - that is a big failure of CT. I introduced a bill last session to get rid of single stream recycling and move to multi stream. Unfortunately this bill was not raised by the environment committee and I fully intend to reintroduce this legislation. We MUST be better at managing our waste and change the way we recycle. I believe those who produce the waste have a duty to help in collecting it and recycling it.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
I will support legislation to support the reduction of Polystyrene pollution and use. We had tried to work on this previously in the legislature and there was much pushback from the industries listed above during COVID because it was nearly impossible to find alternative materials. This time has passed and we must encourage and support

industry to make the transition to alternative materials that are now available. I am also interested in reducing this material from packing of goods received via amazon etc. There are instances where this material may be necessary until an alternate is found in cases where a person has had a stroke etc and is in rehab. Cups made from this material are used to prevent burning of the patient's hands etc.

4) PFAS:

- Yes

I would support legislation to restrict PFAS chemicals as listed above. I believe it would be more effective to have our neighboring states join us in this effort and would work with the Governor's office on this idea. More funding is needed to identify PFAS and work to clean it from areas like wells, and farmland

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

I would support legislation to ban the use these chemicals however I think we need to fully research how to properly and effectively ban them without unintended consequences. Bee hive collapse is a huge issue and we should do all we can to do no harm.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

I support restricting the use of certain rodenticides in outdoor areas like parks etc. I believe we need to work with our local municipalities and wildlife organizations to support efforts to deal with rats and mice if they become a health issue in an alternate manner.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

I think it is important to put in context that Connecticut requires connectivity for all deceives, electric vehicles, etc and there is NO additional primary generation required for Data Centers in CT. The backup diesel generators will not be used for peak shaving as that is off the table. The backup generators will be used for emergency use only. I believe it is there right of every CT business or residence to apply for permits that help maintain reliable and uninterrupted utility to their business or home. I would like to see alternative energy generators be used however they are not available in all parts of CT therefore if the standards are going to be implemented higher than the current standards it should be across the board not just for one type of

business. It would not be fair to not allow Data Centers to meet the same standards as other businesses are in CT.

8) BEARS:

- yes
I think this is critical to establish a working group that includes DEEP, wildlife experts, animal welfare, and municipal leaders who are currently experiencing conflicts with bears to provide humane recommendations to us as policy makers.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes
I support science based approach to tree cutting and removal.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes
This is something we did when I was the Mayor of Groton. We dedicated funds every year to an Open Space account that allowed us to team with a non profit to apply and receive grants. Every municipality should be allowed to move in this pathway should they chose to.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes
I believe a working group of stakeholders is important to create a comprehensive plan for the creation of riparian buffer areas

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- Uncertain
- I support engagement in the voting process and participation in our electoral process but I would need to learn more about Ranked choice voting before I can say for certain. I am open to learning more and investigating exactly how it would work.