

Ned Lamont – CT League of Conservation Voters Candidate Statement

Connecticut's next governor must be a conscientious steward of everything the League of Conservation Voters is committed to protecting. As governor, I will protect our air and water, conserve open spaces, and embrace the technologies and policies required to achieve a carbon-neutral future.

Every Connecticut resident has a right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. As governor, I will support a State Water Plan that recognizes water is a public trust, review our regulations to make sure they adequately protect Connecticut residents, ban single-use plastics, and pick up the slack created by the federal government's decision to default on its responsibility to safeguard our environment. I also will ensure regulations are fairly and adequately enforced in a manner that protects low-income and minority groups from environmental injustices.

Open spaces are a crucial public amenity, animal habitat, and carbon sink. Towns cannot bear the burden of protecting open spaces alone. As governor, I will get Connecticut on track to meet its long-standing goal of permanently preserving 21 percent of land by upholding the integrity of the Community Investment Act, protecting the newly approved Passport for Parks fund, and ensuring our flagship blue space – Long Island Sound – is safe. I also will stand up to protect land that has already been preserved. That's why I support the ballot referendum restricting the sale of state-owned public lands and will work with the General Assembly, DEEP, and other agencies to ensure its requirements are respected.

Redoubling Connecticut's commitment to renewable energy will pave the way to a sustainable future and job growth. As governor, I will put Connecticut on the path to achieving ambitious emissions targets including becoming a carbon neutral economy by 2050. My plan to protect the environment from greenhouse gases and other pollutants includes toughening Connecticut's RPS to include more Class I renewable energy sources, preventing further legislative raids on energy and environmental funds, promoting energy efficiency, ensuring the stable regulatory environment young green industries need to succeed, ending ratepayer subsidies for pipeline construction projects, speeding the construction of wind and solar installations, and developing the public transportation infrastructure required to get private vehicles off our roads.

To achieve those goals, I will invest in the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, ask each of my commissioners to be mindful of the effects – positive and negative – his or her agency can have on the environment, and use the governor's convening authority to rebuild the political dialogue around commonsense climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

My Republican opponent, on the other hand, has a plan to abolish nearly two-thirds of the state's revenues that would require severe cuts to our environmental programs. Even in the face of EPA findings that Connecticut's climate is already changing and that floods, drought, severe weather, and rising temperatures are already harming our environment, economy, and health, Bob Stefanowski insists that climate change is a federal issue he would not have to wrestle with in Connecticut. He is wrong. Making sure that the residents of Connecticut have access to clean air, clean water, renewable energy, and a healthy environment is central to our quality of life. As Governor, I will take on the challenging moral, economic, and environmental issues of our time.