



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Audre Bumgardner Democrat
House , 41

OPEN QUESTION

Throughout my time in politics, I have been a climate activist and environmental justice champion as an elected official. As a former State Rep, I focused on supporting our sustainable oyster farms, growing anaerobic digesters, and expanding commuter rail along the Southeastern CT shoreline. On the Groton Town Council, I lead the passage of the strongest plastics reduction ordinance in Connecticut, championed a Complete Streets policy, defeated a data center proposal, supported municipal open space acquisition, established the position of resiliency and sustainability manager, and sponsored a resolution supporting TCI. As a member of the Connecticut General Assembly, I will push legislation offering municipalities the choice to establish municipal public utilities, permit our state to generate public renewable power, and codify robust deadlines for transitioning to electric by 2030 -- especially in the building sector. The environment is the one issue that impacts everyone and our very existence. My district will face 20 inch sea level rise by 2050 and we must do everything in our power to protect our most vulnerable communities from climate change.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes
I will cosponsor this legislation.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes
I will co sponsor this legislation I would push to expand this to other items that could be recycled in our waste stream. We also need to continue to modernize our bottle bill to include all plastic bottles such as gatorade and NIPS. Most importantly, we must tackle our waste crisis by building anaerobic digesters throughout our state to divert the 30% of organic materials from the solid waste stream.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

I sponsored and successfully passed an ordinance banning polystyrene cups and containers as well as banning straws in Groton. I will co-sponsor this legislation at the state level.

4) PFAS:

- Yes
I will co-sponsor.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes
I will co-sponsor

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes
I will co-sponsor.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes
I look forward to leading the charge on this item. I have discussed this issue with Mary Mushinsky as she also represents a district disproportionately impacted by data centers. I testified in favor of this legislation last year.
<https://cga.ct.gov/2022/ENVdata/Tmy/2022SB-00236-R000307-Bumgardner,%20Aundre,%20Councilor-Town%20of%20Groton-Support-TMY.PDF>

8) BEARS:

- yes
I vehemently oppose hunting bears. I will co-sponsor legislation protecting bears from hunting.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes
I will co-sponsor. Trees are critical to carbon sequestration.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes
I proposed doing this already at the town level.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

Riparian buffers are critical to protecting our watercourses. My District is surrounded by water on three sides and is also home to our reservoir that serves not just our town but surrounding municipalities.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
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