



## 2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Christine Cohen Democrat  
Senate , 12

**1) 100% Zero Carbon:**

**Do you support codifying this legislation?**

- Yes

**2) Environmental Justice:**

**Do you support the provisions that were contained in the Environmental Justice legislation?**

- Yes

Absolutely! In fact, I'm in the process of fighting to have this bill taken up in a special session. The time to act is now. In the wake of George Floyd's murder, folks across the country, but in particular here in CT, are recognizing that issues pertaining to race and pollution are inextricably intertwined. We know that middle income black people are more likely to live in a high air/water polluted area than low income white people. While I think that HB5103 could be strengthened further from how it is written, I am interested in drawing as much support as we can for this proposal in all four caucuses and getting it across the proverbial finish line in the next couple of months! We can not allow affecting facilities to be placed one after the other in the same communities.

**3) Municipal Funding Option :**

**Would you support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for local open space, farmland, water resources climate mitigation strategies through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?**

- Yes

While I have voiced my support of a program such as this, getting it passed or even called has been challenging. Last year, together with a couple of colleagues, we worked to find other creative solutions and

compromises to no avail. The lobbying efforts against this proposition are strong!

**4) Bottle Bill :**

**Do you support modernizing Connecticut's bottle bill by 1) expanding the list of beverage containers accepted, 2) raising the deposit amount on covered containers, and 3) raising the handling fee paid to authorized dealers for each container they collect?**

- Yes

I will continue to fight for this every chance I get! We absolutely need an updated bottle bill. It is only one step in mitigating our waste issues, but it is an important one that we know has numerous benefits.

**5) Climate Change Education:**

**Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?**

- Yes

Absolutely! I've been behind Rep. Palm on this since she introduced the same in 2019. I will continue to advocate for this necessary legislation.

**6) Transfer Act:**

**Do you support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and other safeguards to ensure a successful program that increases the number of sites cleaned?**

- Yes

The Transfer Act as written is not working in anyone's best interest statewide. While it was well-intentioned, the results have not led to appropriate environmental clean-ups, but rather costly proceedings and appeals or property owners simply leaving the hazards and deciding to not transfer the land. Additionally, the Act doesn't recognize or provide oversight on smaller spills or those polluting activities that take place when a property is not being transferred. A release-based system would ensure that spills of any size be mitigated regardless of whether or not a property is being sold or exchanged.

**7) MDC Water:**

**Would you support legislation to require rates set by MDC to be approved by PURA (the state regulatory authority that sets rates for private water utilities)?**

- Yes

**8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):**

**Do you support advancing legislation that would prohibit PFAS chemicals wherever possible?**

- Yes

**9) Chlorpyrifos:**

**Will you support legislation to ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos in CT (as was the intent of House Bill 301 considered earlier this year)?**

- Yes

**10) No New Gas Infrastructure:**

**Will you oppose a tax on CT ratepayers to fund new gas pipelines?**

- Yes

**Open Question:**

**What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?**

- As Senate Environment Chair, I have worked on nearly every issue that touches our environment. These legislative proposals from the bottle bill, to banning polystyrene or plastic straws, or ensuring the proper documentation of pesticide use and eliminate those that are especially harmful have all become my babies. I am passionate about each one for various reasons. I want to see their success because it ultimately means that families across CT can breathe easier and perhaps begin to reverse the damaging effects that waste and carbon emissions have on our planet. I was thrilled, that together with the help of the CTLCV, we were able to finally get a plastic bag ban in the works. While a true ban won't go into effect until 2021, I'm so proud of all of the work we did as a team to get there. Additionally, we were able to pass a statewide ban on fracking waste because of the terrific advocacy of so many. For 2021, my biggest priorities will remain updating the bottle bill, banning polystyrene and addressing the larger trash issue in the state by incentivizing organic waste separation and looking back to a multi-stream recycling system.

**Additional Comments:**

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