



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Christopher Bowen Democrat
House , 105

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes
2040 is, if anything, a conservative timeline. I would push to aim for 2030 and settle for 2035.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
We have put power plants, highways, freeways, every single harmful thing we can think of in poor communities and told them to be glad they have a job, as if they're being given crumbs. I support any and all legislation to undo the damage of decades of restrictive and malicious zoning.

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

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?

- Uncertain

I would expand the bottle deposit and the containers accepted, but I am not sure on the third point because of the problem of hidden costs and the increase in cost for consumers, which makes this a regressive tax in practice. I would prefer to raise the bottle deposit further so the costs are upfront.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

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

This bill affects our area greatly, as we have a disproportionate number of brownfield sites.

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?

- No

As a former firefighter, I question what would replace proven effective PFAS in AFFF and the like.

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

I would go further and vote against the opening of any new pipelines.

Open Question:

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

- As a Selectman in a small town, I have had little chance to have a real say in environmental policy beyond taking steps to hold our sewer authority to task over rates. My top priority from an environmental standpoint is to increase reliance and use of solar and nuclear energy.

Additional Comments:

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