



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 23

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I see SB 10 as a good "first step" though I would advocate for more comprehensive legislation. New York's recent Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) could serve as a good model and I would advocate strongly for a bill that mimics some of its provisions.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

Again, I think Environmental Justice is a major concern and while I support any efforts to give greater voice to at-risk communities, I would push for more. For example, the creation of a permanent Climate Justice Working Group or Task Force would be helpful in promoting environmental justice issues.

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

Conservation is a major priority for the residents of my district and a buyer's conveyance fee would be welcomed. Though I know conceptually the municipal funding option would be voluntary, I am certain that the communities in my district would exercise the option if available.

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

Not only do I support this philosophically, I think that with the current COVID crisis inevitably poised to cause major budgetary drains, every potential revenue source must be tapped.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

Like an overwhelming majority of both parents and educators, I support the introduction of the Next Gen standards that are already followed by at least 20 states. Our state should formally recognize the cumulative weight of scientific evidence that indicates Earth's climate is changing, largely due to human-induced causes. Moreover, it's important to emphasize to students that no scientific controversy exists regarding the basic facts of climate change and that any controversies are based on social, economic, or political arguments and are not science.

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

In general, I support the establishment of a release-based program that will replace the Transfer Act. The testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound (co-signed by LCV) was perfectly on point, "While the Transfer Act created an important system of liability for the cleanup of contaminated properties, it has not lived up to its intended potential from both an economic development and environmental cleanup perspective. Furthermore, Connecticut is currently the only state in the country that does not have a release-based system and relies solely on transfer based triggers for remediation at the state level.

If Connecticut switches to a release-based system, it will align itself with the rest of the country."

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
MDC should have their rates overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority just like the private utilities.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes
Yes. Once again we should look to other states (e.g. New York and Washington) that have already tackled this issue.

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
Though my district contains within it a fairly rural town with a number of commercial farms (Lyme) I am convinced that my constituents will understand the import of this type of legislation and I would support it.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes
The Pipeline Tax is corporate welfare plain and simple.

Open Question:

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

- As I am not an elected official, my experience in environmental advocacy has been limited. I have attended RiverCOG meetings and have discussed the RiverCOG goals on the Old Lyme Economic Development Commission that I sit on. Looking forward, I would push hard as a legislator for a Green New Deal, a Clean Energy Plan and the Environmental Justice bill.

Additional Comments:

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