



## 2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

### Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox (Democrat)

House District 123

**1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:**

**Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?**

Yes

I am concerned about the impact of wind farms on Connecticut's avian population and worry about the impact of wind and solar panels on the state's natural beauty as well as the impact on farmland, so I would like to see a plan in place that carefully considers these aspects in working towards this transition.

**2) State Water Plan:**

**Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?**

Yes

Water needs to be conceived of as a public trust, and maintaining a reliable public water supply is so obviously necessary it does not need to be further justified. Fortunately, since Governor Malloy implemented the state water plan by executive order on June 15, further legislation may not be necessary at this time.

**3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:**

**Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?**

Uncertain

I strongly support enabling open space land acquisition. Though I understand that the proposal calls for enabling legislation, I am not certain that conveyance fees are the best funding mechanism, not only because they are a potentially volatile source of funds but also because they might retard growth in the housing sector. I'd rather see tax incentives or bonding used to fund open space.

**4) Plastic Bag Pollution:**

**Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?**

Yes

In addition to the ban/fee model, my preference would be for a fee-only approach similar to that of Washington, DC--charge a flat fee for all types of bags. My concern is that bans are too easily circumvented, that bans too easily attract negative publicity, and that Washington DC's approach has been arguably more effective, producing a 60% drop in all single-use bags.

**5) Gas Pipeline:**

**Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?**

Yes

**6) Carbon Pricing:**

**Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?**

Yes

I support the concept of carbon pricing. Carbon pricing schemes need to be very carefully designed when passed at a state level to ensure that they do not simply lead businesses to flee to nearby states without such legislation and place an undue burden on small businesses and consumers. Connecticut should monitor carefully the efforts to implement carbon pricing in Massachusetts and, like in Massachusetts, should seek to build partnerships to achieve results. However, the efforts in Massachusetts and Utah show that carbon pricing can work and can receive bipartisan support when done properly.

**7) Additional Comments:**

With the demise of everything from fuel efficiency standards to national monuments at the federal level, it is crucial that state legislators act as a bulwark against these assaults on our environment. Through programs such as those implemented by the Green Bank, Connecticut has been a model of what is possible in public-private partnerships, and we need to continue to support their efforts.