



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Hugh McKenney (Democrat)

House District 37

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

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

Yes

2) State Water Plan:

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

Uncertain

As I am a new candidate and have not seen the Plan, I would need to review it in detail before committing to support, however on the surface I would support such a plan in concept.

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?

Yes

Yes I helped develop the Salem POC&D and the Open Space Plan. I support this type of legislation to help fund open space within our state. Making it optional as opposed to mandatory is the way to go. Let each community decide if they want to enact such a conveyance fee.

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?

Uncertain

I would support legislation to encourage the reduction of plastic bags, however a total ban would require a significant review and impact study before I could support it.

5) Gas Pipeline:

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

Uncertain

New England is facing serious challenges ahead in order to meet its energy needs. As a nuclear engineer at Millstone Power Station, I have studied the Iso-New England grid for many years. While I do not support more and more natural gas electric generation stations, I understand the need for additional capacity for natural gas within our region. I believe strongly in clean electricity generation stations, including nuclear. I could not support repeal of this tax until NE has a solid plan for moving forward with a stronger viable clean energy plan.

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

I believe that carbon pricing is a tool that can be used to ease the region out of reliance on fossil fuels and into a cleaner energy future with renewals.

7) Additional Comments:

As a leader within the largest electricity generator in New England, I understand a great deal about the electric grid and the need for a diverse energy supply. Planning our energy future will not be easy, and one size does not fit all. If elected to the House, I hope to be assigned to the Energy Committee, where I can support clean energy initiatives to solve our current risks and vulnerabilities to our electric grid.