



## 2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

### Benjamin Conroy (Unaffiliated)

House District 80

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

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

Yes

I would hope for 100% renewable energy sooner than 2050, but our state will have to commit more than it currently does before there is such a possibility.

**2) State Water Plan:**

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

Yes

After reviewing Public Act 14-163, I believe it important that we consider the necessary steps Connecticut should make when it comes to our water supply, especially now when drought has become such a common occurrence in our state and throughout the country.

**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 agree that we must find a way for municipalities to have more sources of revenue that do not increase the mill rate, but provide protection and resources to natural spaces and farmland. I would just need to learn more about this particular issue, and learn the impact this would make to the communities living within these municipalities.

**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

I do believe we need to move away from our use of plastic bags, I being one of these individuals. I would imagine the best approach would be a gradual shift, such as adding a minor fee or replacing plastic with biodegradable material, which would hopefully move us away from our dependency of plastic products.

**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 believe any excise tax within the state of Connecticut should directly fund innovation. It is my hope to pass policy that will not only promote carbon pricing to be used for cleaner alternatives, but require all excise taxes be used for the funding of health, education, infrastructure (including renewable resources), and further oversight, like what is called for in Public Act 14-163.

**7) Additional Comments:**