



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Colin Heffernan Democrat
House , 23

OPEN QUESTION

As the chairman of the Old Saybrook Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and the Aquifer Protection Agency, I work on protecting our wetlands and drinking water all year round. To do this, I've been able to steer a bipartisan committee of volunteers in balancing the rights of landowners while ensuring they meet their obligations of stewards of the land. I would continue this as a legislator in crafting legislation that allows for growth while at the same time protects our natural resources not as an afterthought, but as a focus of our policies. As my district abuts both Long Island Sound and the lower Connecticut River, my focus would be on the protection and preservation of those two vital resources.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Uncertain
I very much favor legislation that would allow at risk communities to have a greater voice in deciding whether a polluting facility should be permitted in their community; however, I think that a law automatically prohibiting new facilities from being built may have the opposite effect and cut off people in that community from being heard. Without knowing more about the proposed legislation, I cannot commit beyond stating that I recognize that past policy has unfairly burdened low income and communities of color and I think that it is our duty to rectify that past wrong.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes
We need to aggressively phase out these products and need to work with restaurants in partnering to do so. Restaurants are not necessarily antagonists to conservation and environmental protection, and many

are doing great work towards eliminating styrofoam waste. For those that continue to use styrofoam, we need to identify who they are and help them transition away from such use as soon as possible.

4) PFAS:

- Yes
We need to work together with our neighboring states to phase out the use of PFAS in our products and to set an aggressive timeline that will eliminate the use of these chemicals.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes
The massive bee and bird deaths that accompany the use of Neonicotins must be addressed and mitigated wherever possible. I've spoken with the farmers in my district and they depend on bees to help pollinate their orchards and crops, and I would support a ban on neonicotins.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

8) BEARS:

- yes

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes
Three of the towns in my district border the Connecticut river, and it is a resource that must be protected and preserved for all of us. I support

developing a comprehensive plan that will ensure our amazing rivers are made healthier and protected.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
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