



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

John Hennessy Democrat
House , 127

OPEN QUESTION

I was the chief sponsor of the Environmental Justice Bill back in 2008, working with Dr. Mitchell. I have been fighting to update / upgrade the existing Environmental Justice law we have on the books. Other states have adopted what we did and have gone further. Connecticut needs to, once again, be a leader in environmental justice reform. This is my top priority.

I support all the other bills you have listed.

My record is clear: The issues the Environment Committee covers are important to me and my voting record proves that over the past 18 years I have served on the committee.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes

The problem with the EJ law is, it does not address what's already in place; it's silent on that. That's a problem. Children living adjacent to the trash to energy plant in Bridgeport, Wheelabrator, have the worst asthma rates in the country. Last session they made it into a study - not good enough. If I have the opportunity to get re-elected, updating this law will be my top priority. Connecticut needs to begin to address its historic racist past when it comes to exposing Environmental Justice Communities to pollution and degradation,

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

Connecticut has dropped the ball on how we manage our waste stream. We have known a long time we were running out of options and now we are in a crisis. We must develop ways to move our trash out of the waste stream

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

We have been fighting for years in the Environment Committee to pass these bills. I am amazed that we have not. Money talks. I will continue to fight to ban polystyrene.

4) PFAS:

- Yes

This is a critical priority to begin to address the harm PFAS chemicals does to the environment. I commit to working hard to finally pass this ban.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

I commit to taking the steps to ban neonicotinoids.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

I am on record voting against this bill because we refused to address this air pollution issue.

8) BEARS:

- yes

My record is clear on this issue.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

What happened in Housatonic Meadows Park was an inconceivable, tragic loss of a pristine, old growth forest that was just plain stupid. It seems the State of Connecticut wants to cut all our trees down. Oversight needs to be established to stop that.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

Most of these bills listed have powerful and effective lobby groups who's sole job is to stop Connecticut from taking reasonable steps of improving Connecticut's environmental stewardship. I commit to fighting to address this.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes
- Once again, here we have a solution to begin to address some of the apathy (disgust) people have toward our election process. For a so called "Blue State", we (the legislature) certainly vote Red on critical social and environmental issues.