



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Hilary Ram Democrat
House , 67

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I believe this is not enough and we should explore and propose legislation to get us to zero-carbon before 2040. I support Community Choice Aggregation and legislation that will make it easier for towns to invest in renewable energy.

2) Environmental Justice:

Do you support the provisions that were contained in the Environmental Justice legislation?

- Yes

I do support these provisions 100% particularly the Community environmental benefit agreement.

3) Municipal Funding Option :

Would you support legislation to allow, but not require, municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for local open space, farmland, water resources climate mitigation strategies through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

- Yes

This is a win win because it is not a mandate but simply allows municipalities an option to consider or to adopt a buyer's conveyance fee, giving greater control and opportunity to local leader on how best to protect their local environment.

4) Bottle Bill :

Do you support modernizing Connecticut's bottle bill by 1) expanding the list of beverage containers accepted, 2) raising the deposit amount on covered containers, and 3) raising the handling fee paid to authorized dealers for each container they collect?

- Yes
We must do this and it has been in the works for far too long.

5) Climate Change Education:

Do you support a requirement to teach climate change education in public schools?

- Yes
Our kids are our best hope for environmental activism and the more information they have the better able they are to contribute meaningfully. We are at a breaking point and the data supports our collective action. Kids must learn the science and the data as soon as possible because time is running out.

6) Transfer Act:

Do you support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and other safeguards to ensure a successful program that increases the number of sites cleaned?

- Yes

7) MDC Water:

Would you support legislation to require rates set by MDC to be approved by PURA (the state regulatory authority that sets rates for private water utilities)?

- Yes
I would push for more oversight and the approval of PURA. I agree that legislators need authority to better manage financial and other decisions about public drinking water.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

Do you support advancing legislation that would prohibit PFAS chemicals wherever possible?

- Yes

9) Chlorpyrifos:

Will you support legislation to ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos in CT (as was the intent of House Bill 301 considered earlier this year)?

- Yes
It should say everything that the EPA has banned the use in homes, now CT must restrict and deter the use of Chlorpyrifos. This is one of the most toxic chemicals and it has been determined there is no safe way to use it.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

Will you oppose a tax on CT ratepayers to fund new gas pipelines?

- Yes
Opposing gas infrastructure is one of my focus issues. I worked with Mothers Out Front to put together a rally in Poughkeepsie against several gas power plants effecting CT air, most notably Cricket Valley Energy in Dover Plains.

Open Question:

What environmental issues have you worked on? What will be your top environmental priority for the 2021 legislative session?

- Opposing gas infrastructure is a priority for my campaign. I will focus on legislation that makes it easier to invest and start renewable energy projects. I would also advocate for passing Community Choice Aggregation in CT, and support HB 5348.

Additional Comments:

- “The Earth is what we all have in common” is how Wendell Berry said it. In this time of uncertainty and global crisis where division and name calling are the norms, this quote grounds me in truth and purpose. If we are to survive, now is our moment to unify around the urgent climate crisis facing every single soul on this planet. I am running for office because of this very calling and your endorsement would be invaluable to me. I applaud the advocacy of the CT League of Conservation Voters.