



## 2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Maria Horn Democrat**  
**House , 64**

### **OPEN QUESTION**

Bottle bill/recycling/trash, open space preservation, and sustainable energy are issues I've worked on. There are many important issues here, but I imagine one of the top priorities next year will be trash: with the demise of the MIRA facility in Hartford, soon we will be trucking our solid waste out of state, which is a disaster on any number of metrics. There will not be one answer to this, but we have to make composting more workable for small communities like mine, and work on making producers responsible for the products they create.

#### **1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:**

- Yes  
This issue is central to focusing on the effects of both environmental degradation and climate change, as the costs of both are already being paid by those in Environmental Justice communities. We must insist on calculating those costs so that they are part of every piece of policy we enact, and that starts by empowering those in those communities with the ability to deny permits.

#### **2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

- Yes  
As per above, I expect this to be one of my top issues this coming year.

#### **3) POLYSTYRENE:**

- Yes

#### **4) PFAS:**

- Yes

#### **5) NEONICOTINOIDS:**

- Yes

This highlights another theme of our work this year - federal abdication, either because the administration is not interested (the previous administration) or because they are hamstrung by the Supreme Court (the current administration). States must act on their own, and in combination with other states.

**6) RODENTICIDES:**

- yes

**7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:**

- Yes

This is another area where the externalities are clear. These centers are creating costs and imposing them on others. If we're to have good business and environmental decision-making, the costs should be paid by those who are profiting from the business activities.

**8) BEARS:**

- yes

I certainly support that working group. There is fundamental misunderstanding in other parts of the state of the nature of the problems bears cause in the Northwest Corner. I've been told by a colleague that I can "totally have a bear free property" by taking basic precautions: this is emphatically not true in the Northwest Corner and many residents are understandably and justifiably afraid. Other residents anthropomorphize these beautiful, wild, and powerful creatures and act irresponsibly by feeding them. It is my hope that environmental organizations will step up with strong advocacy for non-lethal methodologies this year to help the residents of my district, for whom this problem is distinctly different, both in terms of tremendous costs to farmers and quality of life.

**9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:**

- Yes

I've been in the middle of this one! I very much look forward to extending this to DOT and the utilities.

**10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:**

- Yes

Another priority for me is looking for ways to bring together the land conservancy community and the affordable housing community, so that we can create more affordable housing options in my community (which has a lot

of preserved land that we cherish) in appropriate locations that allow for the creation of wildlife corridors.

**11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:**

- Yes

**12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:**

- yes
- I think this will take a lot of education and must be a deliberate process, but I very much agree that it can produce a less binary system.