



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Jack Henrie Democrat
House , 61

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I agree that the GC3 should be composed of a diverse group of stakeholders, especially from marginalized and disenfranchised communities. I am a strong proponent of clean energy and agree that we need to have a plan to replace the clean energy currently provided by Millstone's potential decommissioning. While working at Northeast Utilities from 1980 to 1986, I led their accounting policies and contract administration and assisted the Treasurer. In the last of these roles, I coordinated/planned the coordination of over \$100 million in tax-exempt financings for environmental improvement. I am well versed in means for meeting energy requirements. There should be no further investment in fossil fuels; we should invest in improved energy efficiency and electricity storage with equal access to programs. Partnering with ISO New England and increasing investment in solar energy will be crucial. Along with this, we must ensure that we protect our forests and open spaces and that our towns have the resources that they need to ensure resiliency. I fully agree with the goals and actions proposed by the CTLCV.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

The provisions in HB 5103 will help ensure environmental justice for the low-income black and Latino communities in Connecticut's cities. Investment in multi-stream recycling and composting will decrease the use of Hartford's trash incinerator. HB 5103 mandates that developers notify neighborhood and environmental groups of their plans in writing. It also proposes additional mitigation activities.

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

Legislation allowing, but not requiring, municipalities to establish a buyer's conveyance fee of up to 1% would help them to have a fund dedicated to creating and maintaining local open spaces, farmland, water resources, and mitigation strategies. The exemption for purchases of \$150,000 or less would make it more equitable.

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

Expanding the types of containers accepted would greatly increase the number of containers recycled, and increasing the deposit to \$.10 (and reasonably COLA-adjusted in the future) would increase redemption rates and lead to over \$5 million more in unredeemed deposits, permitting a raise in the handling fee paid to authorized dealers on each container they collect.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

The climate crisis is the number one problem facing our planet. It is critical that we educate our children about climate change to help them deal with this threat to their/our existence and to counter the number of Americans who do not believe that climate change exists and who do not believe that it is caused by human activity. It will also help them to embrace their civic responsibilities and to take action on local, national, and global levels.

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

I support switching to a release-based cleanup program that would require sufficient DEEP oversight, mandated reporting of all cleanups and safeguards to ensure a successful program that both increases the number of sites cleaned and assures that remediation takes place more timely (not upon property transfer, but upon any threat to public health). I was "deeply" involved with this from 2006 to 2009. I was Project Manager for the remediation of two of Connecticut's most polluted brownfield sites. The former was in Fairfield at the site of a former Handy & Harman plant they had occupied for over 100 years. I was told by the principal hydrogeologist that it was the most polluted site in all of CT, perhaps all of New England. We cleaned the entire site to bedrock and, in the process, made it one of CT's most pristine sites, now the location of a Whole Foods and its surrounding area. My work there led to my becoming Project Manager for the remediation of 21 of the 85 acres of the \$3 billion commercial construction project in Stamford Harbor. I believe that the results speak for themselves. It would have been even better had these projects taken place as the need for remediation occurred instead of, in each case for at least some portion of the properties, over 100 years later. DEEP funding must be restored so that its programming is returned to adequacy (and more) is no longer underfunded.

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

Requiring MDC rates to be approved by PURA would help to ensure that regular customers are not unfairly paying more while larger "super-users" pay less with no incentives for conservation. The MDC should be encouraging conservation and charging higher rates for "super-users."

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

PFAS substances ("Forever Chemicals") have been linked to many serious health problems, yet they are still used in many products, including fire-fighting foam. They have been found in CT's water resources and in the water of millions of homes, and the safe levels have been found to be one-tenth of what was previously thought. Prohibiting their use wherever possible is crucial.

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

We must ban Chlorpyrifos in order to protect the health of our children and of residents who work at or live near farms and golf courses. We must also enable DEEP to enforce pesticide regulations by funding an overhaul of the pesticide-tracking system and providing transparency.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes

The demand for natural gas has decreased throughout our region, and the cost of renewable energy has decreased dramatically and is now less expensive than gas. It makes no sense for Connecticut taxpayers to fund unnecessary gas plants and/or pipelines, each of which are fraught with environmental risks.

Open Question:

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

- Please see my response to question 1 which includes some of my extensive experience at Northeast Utilities. In question 6, I outline some of the work that I performed for the environmental remediation of two of CT's most significant brownfield sites (at the time). I was also CFO and de facto CEO of an international environmental services company

from 1989 to 1993. The company had a working capital deficit of \$4 million with revenue of half that when I started. Within ten months I took them to a working capital surplus position and to a 5300% return on equity by my fourth year. Our technology consisted of a ferromagnetic wire with a charcoal absorbent that was placed in the ground for one to thirty days (depending upon what we were seeking). We ran these through a mass spectrometer and used CAD/CAM to map the relative amounts of various chemicals which was then useful in determining sources and the scope of needed remediation. It was a great Phase 1 tool which made Phase 2 more effective and efficient. During my time there we expanded our international business tenfold and performed surveys in over 40 countries and on all 7 continents!

On a more personal level, I ordered and purchased on September 1, 2000, a 2001 Toyota Prius. It was the first Prius purchased in CT (and likely in all of New England!). I still own it, now along with a 2014 Toyota Avalon hybrid. Top priority will be climate change education, followed closely by the Transfer Act and other issues addressed herein.

Additional Comments:

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