



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

John Collins Democrat
House , 55

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

I worked on Environmental Justice projects when I was a consultant to EPA.

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

I am a member of my town's Open Space Land Acquisition Committee. As a selectman, I ensured that it received \$140,000 funding this year.

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

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

Absolutely. Climate change is one of my top priority campaign issues. I am a scientist with a Ph.D. in soil chemistry. I spent my career consulting and creating environmental companies, the last of which created green remedial solutions for in-situ contamination. I have several patents in environmental remediation.

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

Absolutely. I worked in the 50 states in risk assessment and remediation. The Transfer Act is one of the weakest laws in the country for cleanup. Just my opinion.

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

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

Terrible chemical. Drives every risk assessment where it is found even when just detectable.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes
The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 gives an opportunity to more quickly change to solar and wind.

Open Question:

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

- I have done EISs, wetland studies, Phase I, II and III cleanups on private, state and federal lands in the US and Australia. Climate change, lead exposure to children in school (as a Hebron selectman, and preservation of habitat are three of the many issues that I hope to address. I pressed for removal of pipes in our elementary school and we are the first in CT to entirely remove them. I will be holding a town hall on climate change in August on one Monday at 6PM to be determined. I hope you can come. Actually, I need a guest if you're interested.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you! I hope you endorse me! (My opponent scored a 53 on your scorecard last year.)