



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Kerry Wood Democrat
House , 29

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes
While this sounds good, we really need to be pushing for a 100% renewable energy grid by 2040. Changes in this language will help to provide a clear goal.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
Supporting this legislation is important but legislators should be taking this one step further in advocating for changes when MIRA and Eversource, for example, fail the public. I mention these because they are front page news stories and this is the time when the public is captive to making change, thinking outside the box, and can help advocate for reforms.

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
In Rocky Hill, the voters approved, through referendum, a \$7M purchase of 84 acres to preserve as open space and farm land. As a result, Rocky Hill has had one of the largest tax increases in recent years. Not all towns will choose to increase taxes to pay for land preservation so other options are needed to help with these investments.

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

This bill also creates jobs, saves municipalities money, reduces litter, and helps pull more material out of landfill for re-use. The long term result will be savings to the state. This bill is critical for moving CT forward with it's recycling.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

While I am in favor of this bill, upon research within my district and area schools, I was happy to discover that climate change is being taught in many of our public schools and children seem not only interested but concerned about their impact on the planet. This bill will help further this education.

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 am not only supporting the overhaul and streamlining of the Transfer Act, I am also involved with the working group. I have worked in construction and development for over a decade and one of the biggest hurdles for cleaning contaminated properties is our state's unique and cumbersome Transfer Act. This program prevents properties from being cleaned, many of which lie in our state's poorest cities and municipalities and along water ways. This policy has caused the most contaminated properties to leach into our waterways with no end in site. There is misinformation being disseminated to environmental advocates on streamlining the Transfer Act when it should be a top priority in order to achieve clean up of underutilized and undervalued properties in communities that need it the most.

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)?

- Uncertain

I am uncertain if PURA is the best oversight for MDC, especially when it is quasi-public. I'm supportive of putting mayors and first selectpeople on the MDC board and reducing the number of commissioners so these members have more responsibility to the public. However, I am committed to outside the box thinking when it comes to the future of MDC. For example, what if MDC was sold? If it was run by a private operator, it would then make sense to have PURA oversight. The municipalities within MDC are the driving force (it's members) and should be putting MDC services out to bid. Competition breeds innovation and lower prices. The towns need consulting on their options. Using our state's college and university system, a working group can be established to guide the towns on options for the future.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

I will cosponsor and advocate for this legislation and believe it's critical.

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

Absolutely

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes

DEEP will be the biggest hurdle but I am committed to no new pipelines.

Open Question:

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

- WORKED ON: plastic bag ban, invasive species in lakes and rivers bill, banning of PFAs, supported offshore wind, supported overhauling bottle bill, supported fracking waste ban

WILL WORK ON:

- Expand the use of anaerobic digesters on farms to create energy and microgrids
- Push for stronger net metering to expand residential solar (with the Eversource and UI rate increases, we should be pushing for expanded residential solar now)
- Vote for a strong bottle bill
- Will support protections to wildlife like preserving habitats, banning sales of endangered species, and ensuring ways to purchase and preserve land
- Will work on policies that prevent landfills and other waste treatment in our cities and encourage closing or relocating existing facilities

Additional Comments:

- It's important to me to move my 93% score rating to 100% should I serve in the legislature next session