



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 40

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

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'm very supportive of open space initiatives and as a member of a coastal community believe its imperative to protect and restore what resources we have left.

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

As a Millennial I feel its imperative that our rising students and new graduates have the science-backed information and inspiration to combat what is going to be a major threat facing both my generation and those that come after.

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

Overall, there needs to be much more oversight of MDC and other state quasi-publics, especially those that have significant impacts on our environment and energy resources.

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

As a member of a coastal community and the aquaculture industry, I am very aware of the negative externalities of pesticides in our water systems and will support moving towards safer alternatives.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes

We need a holistic approach to move Connecticut residences to a more efficient and modern energy system; this is just one step. By shifting priorities away from nonrenewable sources, we can begin investing in cleaner solutions.

Open Question:

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

- As a member of the Groton RTM, I supported the Plastic Ban ordinance passed earlier this year. As a special projects manager of an oyster farm, I conducted the permitting of a small laboratory at our Norwalk facilities wherein the former founder of HarborWatch (Dick Harris) conducts routine water sampling and monitoring of five harbors in Western LIS for our operation and works with the local public utilities and health departments to identify and correct sewage leaks, damaged pipes and illegal hookups. Similarly, I helped broker an arrangement with the Eastern LIS shellfish commissions and our regulatory agency to conduct water and meat sampling of harvest areas, in a way that is more efficient for both parties. Working with the few remaining lobstermen in the state, we've worked towards reducing catch to protect the LIS stock while initiating discussions with DEEP on moving those lobstermen to other, more sustainable fisheries. I have represented my company and the industry at Blue Plan meetings, and stakeholder meetings with various members of US Senate and Congress. I have also represented my company and the industry at CT Shellfish Initiative meetings.

A top environmental priority would be to help communities (especially coastal communities) identify and secure funding to upgrade their sewer systems. Many systems still have clay components that break, leak or seep and are connected to facilities that have too little capacity (leading to excessive overflow discharges) and are not employing the most advanced filtration and disinfection techniques available. I would also like to prioritize the expansion of wind energy in order to transition CT away from dependency on fossil fuels.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you for the opportunity to share views.