



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Cinzia Lettieri, Democrat
House District 35

1) Open Question:

Over the past year and a half, I have sat on the town of Clinton's Water Pollution Control Commission (WPCC) and on the town's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) commission. Throughout my time on P&Z, I have voted in support of building projects along the coastline that were in FEMA compliance and were approved by the Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). I have also given pushback and have not voted in support of passing building projects that have sought to find loopholes to FEMA and DEEP compliance measures. I have also opposed projects that have requested exemptions to infringe upon or blatantly change and adjust easement regulations of properties that abut wetlands or protected lands. On the WPCC I have been working diligently with the Chair and fellow members to meet state mandate requirements and a consent order that has been in place since 1997-stating that the Town would prepare an engineering report to evaluate existing and potential community pollution problems related to aging infrastructure and onsite wastewater disposal. Since going the WPCC I have helped moved our project of replacing failing septics in our downtown area with a wastewater treatment facility by opening communication between the town council and federal legislators through workshops and regular updates on community pollution problem happening underground. This year we have seen more movement on this project than ever before. We applied for a Congressional Spending grant and have just received word that the grant for our design phase has made it out of federal appropriations for \$500,000. We are also working on moving a project forward in one of our town's neighborhoods that does not have access to clean water. Houses were built on small plots and septics abut neighbor's wells. We are trying to work with Connecticut water to get a water main that would both serve the neighborhood but also the fire department in providing a water source for fires for houses north of 95 in the town.

I expect my top environmental priority to be around coastal resiliency and further protecting Connecticut's coastline. I would want to further pursue

laws that limit development along our coastlines and ensure that fines are implemented and enforced by DEEP for any projects that do not adhere to or violate existing environmental protections. I would also strongly advocate for and support any bill that builds out Connecticut's conservation policies to protect our coastal habitats, wetlands, dunes, and estuaries. As an educator, I would want to build awareness through a robust education and outreach program that would provide opportunities for public education around to raise awareness about the importance of coastal environments and sustainable practices for residents and those visiting.

2) Climate:

Will you support paying for increased investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment that will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy (and ultimately reduce costs to ratepayers)?

- Yes

3) Nature-Based Solutions:

Will you support a stand-alone bill that authorizes and prioritizes the use of nature-based solutions (forests, trees, wetlands, riparian buffers, healthy organic soils, and other natural ecosystems) as the preferred alternative, where appropriate, across all agencies?

- Yes

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

Do you support Connecticut's adoption of the latest California emissions standards for cars and trucks?

- Yes

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

Will you support an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution?

- Yes

6) Food Waste Diversion:

Will you support designating food scraps as a "recyclable" item and requiring large-scale food generators to create plans to donate edible food?

- Yes

7) Neonicotinoids:

Will you help push for legislation to ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural use in Connecticut?

- Yes

8) Rodenticides:

Will you support banning the use of certain rodenticides, with a few well-defined exceptions, to help prevent the deaths of its unintended victims?

- Yes

9) Environmental Justice:

Will you support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities?

- Yes

10) Bears:

Will you support legislation that requires humane responses to conflicts with wildlife such as providing better support for the public seeking help, removing attractants, minimizing shooting incidents, and strengthening programs to deal with orphaned wildlife?

- Yes

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

Will you support legislation to require stronger science-based tree cutting protocols based on conservation values?

- Yes

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes

I'm currently seeking a cross endorsements from both the Working Families Party and the Independent Party.

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT TO WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

If you support any or all of our top priority legislation during the 2025 session, will you add your name as a legislative co-sponsor?

- Yes

Will you plan to attend our annual Environmental Summit in January?

- Yes

If requested, will you meet with CTLCV at least once during the legislative session to review priority legislation?

- Yes
Would more than welcome a meeting.