



## 2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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House , 142

### 1) 100% Zero Carbon:

**Do you support codifying this legislation?**

- Yes

Absolutely, we need to have this codified into law to ensure that future legislatures and governors will continue to work towards this goal. I have supported 2019 legislation that helped move towards this with my support of wind farms. I have also been in discussions in evaluating at solar initiatives in Norwalk to build a solar array. I was disappointed with the closure in the legislature in the middle of the 2020 session that this initiative did not move forward and I am hoping that we will take this up in a special session.

### 2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

Bill 5103 was an important step to continue in reversing our nation's long history on environmental justice issues and a chance to change this legacy for generations to come. Many proposed projects are taking place in lower social economic communities and these local communities have not been able to voice concerns or have had transparency on these projects. This bill would have increased mechanisms for local participation in the possible negotiations of community benefit agreements, and provide stronger enforcement mechanisms. These underprivileged communities deserve these protections and the accountability this bill proposed.

### 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 2019, there was HB 5254, that was an interesting proposal that would support local municipalities in raising local revenues to help fund local open spaces and other conservation efforts. I was not aware on this initiative until the end of session and it was not called for a vote. I would like to propose this and include Norwalk and other communities to help fund these initiatives.

**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

Yes I do and I co-sponsored this particular piece of legislation and wrote public testimony. In the new legislative cycle I would be sure to continue to fight for its passage. This is a common sense and easy way to promote recycling in our communities that has a tangible incentive.

**5) Climate Change Education:**

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

- Yes

Yes I do. Our children are who we are fighting for when we pass environmental protection legislation and we must ensure that they are prepared to carry on our work when they become the decision makers in our state. I was astonished at the level of partisanship on the 2019 bill, that had people who were suggesting that we need to teach both sides of this issue. We need to listen to the science here and teach our children, accordingly.

**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 was a proud co-sponsor of 2019 SB1030 which shortened the audit period for the transfer of hazardous waste establishments from three years to sixty days. Shortening the timeframe allotted in environmental audits would help to expand real estate development opportunities in Connecticut and also ensure that the hazardous waste was taken care of in more efficient timely manner.

**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

Yes, I would support this as we need to ensure the rates are set appropriately (not to encourage "super users") and include oversight.

**8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):**

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

- Yes

Yes I do. I was sponsor of SB99 and SB297 to limit these in use in CT but as I stated in my letter of my 2020 Environmental Initiatives to the committee chairs, we need to ensure that we have appropriate levels that are considered safe in drinking water. We need to ensure that our residents have access to safe drinking water or we run the risk of endangering countless lives who are dependent on city and town water supplies.

**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

Yes I will and I was a Co-Sponsor on this particular piece of legislation in 2020 in SB301. This is an issue I will passionately work to advance through the legislature should I be fortunate enough to be elected to a second term in office.

**10) No New Gas Infrastructure:**

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

- Yes

I do not believe that tax payer funds should be funding of any form of natural gas options as there are many more forms of cleaner energy.

**Open Question:**

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

- I would like to continue the work on establishing a ban on single use plastic products, including straws, utensils and Styrofoam and get these codified into law.

Also, I do hope that the Environmental Committee will have another look at the Trophy Hunting bills (2019 SB 20 and 2020 HB5104). I was a sponsor of both of these bills and have been advocating for these bills for 2 years. I believe that we need to eliminate the trade and importation of these wild, and in some cases, endangered African species, where many of these wild animals are killed for “sport”.

**Additional Comments:**

- Thank you for support in the past session and I really appreciate your strong advocacy efforts on behalf of Connecticut's residents. I have really enjoyed your annual events in Hartford that provided me with much needed background on key environmental issues for our state.