



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Maria Horn Democrat
House , 64

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes
Climate change is one of the most critical issues of our days, and we must set goals if we are going to make progress.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
Environmental justice legislation is deeply connected to other issues of systemic racism that are now at the forefront of debate, and I look forward to returning to support this bill.

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
A number of towns in my district wanted to sign up for a pilot project to allow them to do this, possibly also allowing those funds to spent on affordable housing in addition to open space, so I look forward to providing them that opportunity.

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

We also had a good bill that was debated in 2019, and I was very disappointed when it was gutted before the vote in the House. I had made this one of my most important issues for 2020, and I intend to return to that in 2021.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

I support science being taught in our public schools. Climate science is part of that, and every student should get that exposure.

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

Water is a public good, and should be regulated accordingly, to ensure that everyone has equitable access to clean public drinking water.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

We were making significant process on this issue in 2020 before the session got cut short, and I look forward to prioritizing this again in 2021.

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

We must have the conviction to follow the science on this one, and weigh the costs and benefits. Certainly the data I have seen make it clear that we should follow other states who have banned chlorpyrifos.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes

We have tough budget times ahead, and the need to fund critical needs of our residents and environment: these subsidies for natural gas are not appropriate, and incentivize the wrong behavior.

Open Question:

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

- The bottle bill was my top environmental priority for 2020, along with supporting alternative methods for waste disposal in the wake of MIRA's looming inability to continue in that role. If we don't invest in other methods to deal with waste (including increased composting, anaerobic digestion, and programs that incentivize users to limit the trash we produce), that waste will end up getting shipped to landfills in other parts of the country, which is the very thing we were trying to avoid.

Additional Comments:

- Thanks for giving me the opportunity to ask for your support. I was proud to have that in 2018 when I ran for the first time, and I hope I can earn that again this year.