



## 2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mary Mushinsky Democrat  
House , 85

**1) 100% Zero Carbon:**

**Do you support codifying this legislation?**

- Yes  
Prefer goal set for 2035, as we have very little time left to avoid runaway climate change. I wrote two climate change laws in 1989 and 1990, but CT and the US have lost ground in reaching our clean energy goals, reducing inefficient land use and moving more people onto public transit. (Pandemic isn't helping.)

**2) Environmental Justice:**

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

- Yes  
Prefer addition to allow applicant to buy out and remove existing sources of pollution.

**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

**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

Have worked hard to expand this law in last 3 years. Lobbied for enactment of the original law.

**5) Climate Change Education:**

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

- Yes

**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

The motivation for changing the law in the Commerce Committee is quicker de-listing of contaminated sites so commerce and tax base can benefit. Those goals are business and municipality-friendly but create pressure to de-list without an evaluation of risk to public and the environment. As a sponsor of the original transfer law, which followed decades of toxic pollution at abandoned industrial sites, I am wary of de-listing without public agency oversight.

**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

Absolutely. Water is a public trust and waters of the state must be carefully managed for competing uses, especially in light of climate change and a warmer state.

**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

**10) No New Gas Infrastructure:**

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

- Yes

Transition to clean energy will take longer if fossil fuels continue to be shipped into the state. Efficiency is the cheapest form of energy.

**Open Question:**

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

- Climate change; state water plan; mandatory recycling and waste management, including bottle law; endangered species protection; greenways; upgrade to sewage treatment; Long Island Sound license plate, etc.

Climate change and expansion of bottle law are priorities, as well as preserving public transit (threatened by pandemic).

**Additional Comments:**

- I look forward to continuing to work with LCV on pro-environment legislation. I'm building a greenway in the district (now 2.25 miles long), supported the new train service and have served on our local Energy Conservation Commission. I perform environmental protection in my private life as a river advocate.