



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Rebekah Harriman Stites Democrat
House , 106

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

I would recommend getting there sooner. We may not have until 2040.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

Connecticut is horrifically segregated. We do further injustice by placing these polluters in communities of color. We need to do better by these communities and give them their right to clean air and water.

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

New England has lost 80% of its farmland in the last 60 years. We need to halt the loss of open space and make sure we can keep this asset for the future.

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 desperately need to increase our recycling. Modernization will help our programs move forward.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes

Not just all public schools, but all ages. We are out of time with regards to climate change. Every single child needs to be informed what lays in the future.

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

With CT's industrial history there are a lot of sites that need mitigation. We need to make sure our communities get cleaned.

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

Clean water is a right. The public should have as much oversight on their rights as possible.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes

There is an alarming rate of PFAS in ground water. We need to stop poisoning our drinking water.

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
We need to move away from fossil fuels.

Open Question:

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

- I have worked on several environmental issues while on Newtown's Board of Education. My top priority is moving CT to a green economy. We don't time to waste. We need to re-train and re-deploy our workforce to move CT to clean energy. We need an investment into our decaying infrastructure system, but one that isn't such a carbon hog.

Additional Comments:

-