



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Robin Comey Democrat
House , 102

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

We have an incredible opportunity in front of us to make historic change in the way we invest in and use our natural resources and how we rely on the utility companies. I would be honored to play a role in advocating for such an forward thinking strategy.

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

I was pleased to hear that Governor Lamont has made the decision to stop further investments in the MIRA plant. We must find alternatives that do not impact high density areas and communities of color.

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

This is a reasonable solution for those communities that do not have strong land trusts and I would support it if it gets to the floor of the house.

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
This is something that I believe is critical to modernizing our current practices. I was a cosponsor in 2019 and had an intention of voting in favor of it and voted against the amendment to make it a task force. It's time to move it forward once and for all.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes
I was one of the first co-sponsors of Rep. Palm's bill and support this. I have done extensive environmental education in my community for children and for adults of all ages.

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
DEEP needs sufficient resources for this.

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
I can tell you that I would be infuriated if our local reservoirs were being used for the bottled water industry and then we gave them huge corporate tax breaks. I was not as familiar with this issue but certainly, if PURA has the resources, than perhaps that is the proper authority to oversee rates.

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes
As a public health committee member I voted in support of this bill and was bothered by the testimony. Since that 2019 bill we have seen

contamination that has impacted our water and wildlife. There are alternative products that must be considered.

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

Here in Branford we rallied the community and created cross state relationships to fight off the Broadwater LNG pipeline. We should absolutely remove this law from the books.

Open Question:

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

- I actually worked for Greenpeace in the late 1980's when we were saving the whales! Seriously, I have done environmental education for families around water, I am a surveyor for the Project Limulus horseshow crab conservation project and I was an associate producer of Projects for a New Millenium (Projects 2k) to do large scale multimedia production events. Next year I will support the bottle bill and conveyance tax and pursue many of the bills that fell to the wayside in 2020.

Additional Comments:

- Thank you.