



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Bob Statchen (Democrat)

Senate District 18

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?

Yes

100% Clean Energy by 2050 is of course a laudable goal. I think it may be attainable for electricity, but transportation and residential would be more difficult. At a minimum, we must implement policies to comply with the Global Warming Solutions Act's 2050 target of 80% reduction from 2001 levels.

2) State Water Plan:

Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?

Yes

I believe CGS Section 22a-15 establishes that water is a public trust in Connecticut. I concur with the Plan's general principal that the Water Plan is not an answer but rather it provides a consistent platform for decision making based on science.

3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:

Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?

Yes

I would support providing municipalities the option based on their local needs. However, I think there should be limits in regards the value of the property being transferred and also it needs to be coordinated with the current conveyance fee that municip

4) Plastic Bag Pollution:

Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?

Yes

5) Gas Pipeline:

Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?

Yes

Assuming the Synapse Energy Economics report is accurate regarding the 41% decrease in natural gas use by 2030 as well as the position of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on implementing this pipeline in Massachusetts, this plan does not appear t

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

However, we must be careful that any tax is imposed in the least regressive manner possible. We need to have gas prices that are comparable to neighboring states. Therefore, I believe we cannot implement carbon pricing unless it is in conjunction with neighboring states. We could also assess whether CT electrical producers subject to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative should be included in carbon pricing.

7) Additional Comments:

I believe there should also be focus on rising sea levels, aquaculture development and analysis developed in the Long Island Sound Blue Plan to support our marine ecosystem. I also believe we need to address the impact of climate change on the fishing industry in a way that can help commercial fisheries continue and thrive.