



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Alexandra Bergstein (Democrat)

Senate District 36

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

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

Yes

I support transitioning to clean energy as fast as reasonably possible, while also protecting vulnerable populations and supporting businesses in the process.

2) State Water Plan:

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

Yes

I will not only support the State Water Plan, I will make it a priority. Every time I have the opportunity to speak about this issue, I let people know that the Plan is a critical first step in safeguarding our water supply and ensuring a sustainable future.

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

Absolutely. This model of generating funds for land conservation has been used with great success in many towns and states. I wholeheartedly support giving localities the option to adopt such a policy and steward their own public land.

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

I was a vocal supporter of the Plastic Bag Ban in Greenwich and would support a similar measure statewide. However, there must be exceptions for situations where there is no reasonable, affordable alternative. In the event that they are not banned, I believe the real cost of the plastic bags should be exposed so consumers can choose whether to pay for this item or bring their own bag. There is no such thing as a "free" bag.

5) Gas Pipeline:

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

Yes

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

Carbon pricing should have been adopted as national policy decades ago, but now it's more critical than ever. The externalities associated with fossil fuel consumption - drought, flooding, other natural disasters, human health impacts, - are growing. We all pay an exorbitant price for fossil fuel consumption through these other channels. Calculating the "real cost" of carbon would lead to innovation and adaptation, and dramatically reduce the billions (trillions) of dollars in damage we currently suffer.

7) Additional Comments:

I've spent much of my career championing environmental awareness and promoting sustainability and public health policy. For years, I served on the Board of the Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center under Dr. Philip Landrigan, my mentor. During the time I chaired the Board we built the first-ever research lab dedicated to studying the impact of environmental factors on human health, specifically stemming from early childhood exposures. Preventing exposure to toxic chemicals is my mission. Nine years ago, I also began a doctoral program in Environmental Health Law & Policy at Yale. I earned an M.Phil degree in 2014, conducted research for my dissertation and was

expecting to earn my PhD this year. However, circumstances intervened. The dramatic shift in environmental policy we are witnessing at the national level is alarming. And I feel compelled to defend Connecticut from ill-conceived policies relating to the environment and other issues. I can no longer sit on the sidelines and watch. This is why I'm running for State Senate.