



2020 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Susan Johnson Democrat
House , 49

1) 100% Zero Carbon:

Do you support codifying this legislation?

- Yes

2) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes

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?

- Uncertain

There are already conveyance fees on real estate transactions in distressed municipalities. These communities are the communities that might benefit from access to more open space. This is the type of additional burden our low income communities will have a more difficult time with than our more affluent towns.

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

It is important to increase the deposit fee and not give the returns to big corporations. That way low income people can take advantage of

the returns no one wants to bring back. Many low income people actually live on the donated returnables.

5) Climate Change Education:

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

- Yes
This bill is imperative if we want to move to a green economy.

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?

- Uncertain
Superfund access should be coordinated with the transfer act laws. Regular enforcement to get rid of toxic waste should be regularly done by DEEP. Not the local communities for multiple reasons. Systems should be developed to maintain the proper disposal of toxic waste should be evaluated on a regular basis. It is usually too late to address contamination when the property is abandoned or sold.

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

8) Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

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

- Yes
PFAS chemicals include almost 5000 different chemical combinations. It might be best to know which are toxic. Or if all are toxic. Regulating it as one chemical may create dysfunction in the law and its application.

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
Please review agricultural education in our universities. Many are being provided with funds from these chemical companies. The reality is that agricultural colleges and universities are teaching students to use some of these bad chemicals when more organic methods would work as well.

10) No New Gas Infrastructure:

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

- Yes
Please review the litigation filed by AG Tong which can get to the root of the problems of our high energy cost. Plus the role that ISO New England plays in increasing our costs and limiting competition.

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 getting old factory sites cleaned up by EPA. Also limiting toxic waste sites in CT. I moved GMO legislation into law when I was chair of the Public Health Committee.

Additional Comments:

- Connecticut is a small state with industrial sites that must be cleaned. We must stop allowing contamination and help clean up existing sites. Also, we must make clean energy available at a reasonable cost.