



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Mitch Bolinsky (Republican)

House District 106

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

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

Yes

Not sure it's 100% possible but it is a very good cause and the effort needs be made.

2) State Water Plan:

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

Yes

Supported the plan in 2018. Water is life.

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?

No

I totally support open space preservation but am fundamentally opposed to levying a tax on the real estate sector to fund it. Land trusts, philanthropic acquisition, public/private partnerships and community fundraising are a more organic way to partner everyone and my preferred. I regularly contribute and recently helped raise funds for acquisitions, like Cherry Grove Farm in Newtown.

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 introduced a concept bill in 2018 for a ban but it did not make it through screening in committee. Subsequently withdrawn but can produce documentation. I do not support a fee, deposit or tax, just a ban to eliminate the plastic waste. I also believe we'll see retailers voluntarily move this way soon.

5) Gas Pipeline:

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

Yes

It's a tax and I oppose taxes and fees subsidizing anything. I believe there may be a need for additional natural gas resources for CT's coming economic expansion but the cost should be borne by those who will profit from this form of energy, not residential ratepayers.

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

No

I oppose the concept of a carbon tax and have for more than ten-years. I have seen no evidence that western carbon exchanges have done anything but collect abstract dollars to fund more government waste and corruption. If any exchange could show evidence that they have demonstrably cleaned the air with this tax, versus punishing consumers with just another way to drive unspecified revenue growth, I'd consider it but, as someone with real regulatory experience in this area, I believe it's a racket.

7) Additional Comments:

Through my work as a Regulatory Affairs liaison, I have real experience reducing GHG emissions in California and other Western States. I'm probably also the only person in the CT General Assembly who's developed and implemented a real, working recycling program that is now nearly ten-years old. I have worked collaboratively with US EPA, the California Air Resources Board, the CA legislature (AB-32 Global Warming Solutions Act) and United States Congress (American

Clean Energy & Security Act of 2009) to achieve positive, bipartisan outcomes. I advocate for the environment and believe it's our responsibility to leave the planet better than we found it.