



2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Patricia Wilson Pheanious (Democrat)

House District 53

1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:

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

Yes

Clean energy is critical to our future wellbeing. We must do whatever we can to reach the goal and encourage other states to do the same. Clean energy will save us money in the long run, and it can provide jobs that are desperately needed in our state.

2) State Water Plan:

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

Yes

Water is a common good used by everyone who wants to live. Yes, it must be a public trust. There has been no major overhaul of our water systems (bridges, roads and tunnels) was during the New Deal in the 1930s. Updating our systems is imperative. But we can't do it by privately financing repairs if it means selling our resources to private entities. Privatizing water will lead to social inequities, public health risks and environmental harm. Private=Profit. Publicly owned water systems are more accountable, affordable, better protect public health. They are regulated to insure conservation and protection of nature resources.

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

Open spaces (farmland, forests and natural water resources) must be protected. Our state's most precious resource is its scenic beauty. Open space provides habitats for animals, plants and trees, it encourages biodiversity, and reduces the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. I would encourage the use of land trusts for people with sufficient acreage and other such vehicles to help protect our land from exploitation. An optional fund created by fees on people who buy (not sell) real estate seems to be one reasonable way to protect our irreplaceable natural resources.

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

A gradual move in this direction is a good idea, but the move must include public education about why this initiative is necessary. We must also be concerned about undue costs to industry .

5) Gas Pipeline:

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

Yes

Natural gas is 97% methane, a non-renewable fossil fuel obtained through harmful fracking. It is at least 80 times stronger than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the air, making it worse than burning oil. The proposed gas power plants are unnecessary and unfair to the general public because they offer no benefit to the climate, rate payers, or the economy.

6) Carbon Pricing:

Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?

Yes

A reasonable implementation and adequate public education about the costs and benefits is important. The true costs (health, climate) need to be identified; how "saved "dollars will be used should be communicated.

7) Additional Comments: