



## 2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

### Greg Cava (Democrat)

House District 69

**1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:**

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

Yes

**2) State Water Plan:**

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

Yes

The water I drink every day comes from a well drilled into an aquifer shared by a good many people, so you can bet, every time I take a drink of water, I am reminded why I support efforts to remove threats to that aquifer in terms of water quantity and quality and to manage our critical water 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

Some towns like mine (Roxbury) enjoy an active land trust that has acquired over 3,000 acres and protected many hundreds more by private covenants. Other towns have not been so fortunate. However, while I support such a fee, I would hesitate to place the burden for paying the tax on the buyers of real estate, rather place it on the sellers of real estate. Functionally speaking, the seller is the one receiving the money at closing. Buyers are having to come up with money to close and I fear this could be a burden that will make towns think twice before enacting such a tax thus defeating its purpose.

**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 support this measure, but an alternative, if there are not the votes to pass it, would be to require the stores providing the bags to accept them for recycling, which I think some do, and requiring the store to notify consumers of this policy and to place a recycling bin in the front entry to the store. This is not as effective as a ban, but I would rather have us do something rather than ignore this terrible problem.

**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

**7) Additional Comments:**

Conservation is critical to our survival. At our home, we compost in order to remove a significant portion of our waste stream. The School Board on which I serve enthusiastically agreed our elementary school located in the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority district participate in a composting pilot project where our school along with the entire town of Bridgewater separates its food waste including meat for collection by a trash service and composted at a local farm with the proper equipment to handle the composting of vegetable and meat products. HRRRA believes that if this works, they can remove 35-40% of their waste stream. If HRRRA is successful, this should become a state-wide initiative. At our home, we recycle, and we have gone digital with our NY Times and other newspaper subscriptions limiting paper delivery to the Sunday Times. We do not fertilize our lawn and the farmer who cuts our hay fields, annually monitors the soil ph and uses lime to keep it at the correct level to promote growth and reduce weeds and uses fertilizer made from discarded fish products and does not use chemical fertilizers or weed control. Everyone can follow these examples, but we need to do more. We need to expand these initiatives, and to raise public awareness of what must be done to insure clean ground and surface water,

protect our rivers, and our air. At the schools in the District where I serve on the Board of Education and chair its facilities committee, through conservation measures like installing LED lighting and more efficient heating plants, we are saving \$120,000 a year in reduced energy consumption. We are not finished yet and expect to more than double that savings and achieve a significant reduction of our carbon footprint. Imagine if every school district did the same? I will commit to placing a greater emphasis on the environment in Hartford and on programs to promote sustainability and conservation. I would appreciate and treasure your endorsement and work hard to earn it.

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