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## 2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

### CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Todd Kaminsky

Office Sought (district if applicable): New York State Senate, District 9

Website: [www.toddkaminsky.com](http://www.toddkaminsky.com)

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Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

Growing up and living on the South Shore of Long Island – where the local economy heavily relies on good weather and a clean shore – has made me deeply aware of the importance of our natural resources and the need to protect our environment. Hurricane Sandy added a new sense of urgency to that need, however—and I believe strongly we must move government to take bolder action than it has so far to address climate change, environmental degradation, and inadequate infrastructure. Those goals do not have to be at odds with another priority: economic growth. In fact, building better infrastructure and investing in alternative energy production will actually create new, good “green” jobs that will make both our economy and environment more sustainable.

At the same time we cannot do anything at the expense of our environment, and, that is why, as Assemblyman, I lead the fight against the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas project. This would have put a natural gas pipeline 19 miles off the shore of Long Island beach coast. In addition I’m aggressively pushing for funds to build an outfall pipe at the Bay Park sewage treatment plant and protecting the Lloyd aquifer – Long Island’s oldest and deepest water source. It’s simple, we need to

look out for our natural resources, protect our environment from the harmful toxins that so often devastate our beautiful lands and promote smart clean growth for the future generations.

Please indicate your level of commitment to, and if applicable your recent personal and professional activity with respect to, the following issues:

Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

I support providing all relevant agencies with the appropriate funding and resources to protect our environment, public health and safety. We need to fund the Environmental Protection Fund at \$300 million in the 2016-17 state budget and support \$800 million in annual spending on clean water infrastructure

Addressing the causes and effects of climate change (e.g., clean energy and emission controls)

After all that Long Island – particularly the South Shore of Nassau County – has been through, everyone can agree that it is imperative to direct adequate funding to the region to redevelop and fortify the coast against any potential extreme weather that may occur in the future. I support developing a statewide plan and future strategy to combat the effects of climate change. I will work to make sure we have large-scale renewables to reach the state energy goals and ensure the final Clean Energy Fund provides a clear roadmap and adequate financial support for new green energy projects an implementation of existing initiatives.

Protecting the health of New Yorkers and their communities (e.g., toxics, air quality, food quality and security)

Public health can be improved by cleaning up contaminated land, enacting comprehensive legislation that protects children and the environment from harmful chemicals, reducing emissions through upgrades to vehicles to clean diesel and supporting initiatives to secure sustainable agricultural practices.

Conserving and protecting natural resources (e.g., water, open spaces, habitat, organic recycling)

New York is abundant with beautiful natural resources that provide our children and families with healthy outdoor activities, parks lakes and oceans. It's imperative that we do all we can to protect our natural resources for generations to come.

Investing in better, smarter infrastructure (e.g., transportation, electrical grid, green infrastructure, smart growth, rail transport of crude oil)

Investment in our infrastructure leads to growth and prosperity for generation of New Yorkers to come. It's imperative that we support a greener and smarter infrastructure. Therefore, we need to make sure our communities have access to public transportation, New York State develops a statewide climate adaption plan and utilize the Environmental Protection Fund for conservation and land protection programs to reduce the risks from climate change.

