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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Anthony Brindisi

Office Sought (district if applicable): New York State Assembly, 119th District

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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.

Throughout my five years in the New York State Assembly, I have argued that in order to have successful economic development, we need to protect the environment for local residents. I strongly support measures that provide the resources for communities to clean up former industrial sites for re-use. I am the Assembly sponsor of legislation seeking to improve the Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program to encourage communities to clean up contaminated sites. I also believe providing clean drinking water is imperative. Some of my constituents still use unreliable well water. I worked with the other officials in my area to provide clean water to homeowners in the Town of Whitestown who still used well water. Recently, I secured state funding to help the City of Rome expand municipal water service into areas previously without it. I also issue news releases and send letters regularly encouraging municipal officials to seek funding to improve their water and sewer infrastructure.

I have been a strong opponent since taking office of hydrofracking. I also have publicly raised questions about the safety of freight trains that pass through my district carrying fuel oil and other potentially hazardous materials. I give special consideration for municipalities and organizations that request legislative grants for projects that are green or environmentally friendly; one of my grants supported a state-of-the art solar energy system for the Town of Floyd that is now powering the municipal building, and the highway and sewer departments.

I am a supporter of ride sharing and other efforts that promote energy conservation, and strongly support programs that provide incentives for using environmentally friendly building standards.

While I want to continue bringing economic progress to my Assembly District, I strongly believe it must be achieved in way that does not compromise the health and safety of the people who live in it.

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

(To ensure your responses address the issues NYLCV and its partners are most concerned about, please review [NYLCV's 2016 State Policy Agenda](#))

1. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

I strongly favor providing adequate funding for environmental oversight and programs to protect the environment.

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

Climate change clearly has long been upon us, and New York must do everything we can to encourage the development of 'green' building projects; more production of clean energy; and controlling emissions.

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

I have been strongly opposed to hydrofracking since taking office, and believe it would be highly detrimental to the health and safety of my constituents. Businesses that emit or dispose of toxic substances should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Consumers deserve to know where their food is produced, and food production must be more carefully monitored.

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

I strongly support economic development for my district, but believe it must be done in a way that does not impact on the environment. Growth must be done in a way that avoids urban sprawl, and jeopardizing open spaces. I support programs that promote and encourage organic recycling.

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

I support the development of high speed rail, and the improvement of current rail infrastructure to continue the growth in rail passenger use in New York. It is clear we need to improve out aging electric grid, but it must be done utilizing new technology that does not impact communities and the beauty of our rural areas. I favor smart growth. I have been calling for better oversight into the transportation of crude oil and other potential hazardous products for several years.