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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Diane Savino

Office Sought (district if applicable): New York Senate, District 23

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

In 2009, I voted to pass the Green Jobs/Green NY Bill, which created 14,000 family-sustaining jobs while also significantly reducing energy costs for 1 million homes and businesses. This program pays for itself through energy savings and revitalization of economically distressed communities.

In 2016, I was a sponsor of S3414 bill, which amended public health and the public service law, in relation to the protection of public health from exposure to radon in natural gas. The bill insures, by mandated testing, that the radon levels in natural gas brought into New York are kept below acceptable levels.

After Hurricane Sandy, I introduces and passed Bill No. S6617B, Chapter 355, the Community Risk and Resiliency Act, which requires that future projects and infrastructure be

designed to maintain rising sea levels, heavy flooding, and superstorms. Additionally, this requires the Department of State and Environmental Conservation to prepare zoning laws concerning climate change for local municipalities to consider. This act was one of the biggest environmental bills passed and chaptered in recent years. I believe it is important to be well protected when the next big storm hits New York, especially in Staten Island where so much of industrial life is tied to the waterfront. I am also a member of the Bi-Partisan Task Force on Hurricane Sandy.

Additionally, I hold an annual “Earth Day Poster Contest” for young students in District 23 to encourage district members to study and learn more about serious challenges that face our environment. My hope is that the contest will spread concern for the ecological future of our communities and state.

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](#))

2. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

The Environmental Protection Fund, as well as other environmental agencies and programs, is a source of funding for capital projects that protect the environment and enhance communities. Every dollar that we invest into the environmental programs produces social and public goods directly benefiting the residents of our state, which is why I fully support increasing their funding.

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

I am extremely committed to addressing the causes and effects of climate change, as I have shown through my support of the S3414 Bill and introducing and passing of S6617B Bill and chapter number 355 the Community Risk and Resiliency Act.



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

I believe that public safety must be put before the interests of gas or oil companies. In 2010, I supported the S8129B/Thompson bill that protected New York's drinking water from hydro-fracking. Additionally, I was a co-sponsor of the Child Safe Products Act, which protects consumers from toxic chemicals in children's products. This Act provides greater regulation of children's products by allowing the Senate to collect information on chemical use and prohibit the sale of children's products containing certain chemicals.

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

The conservation and protection of natural resources is vital for the community. Last month I encouraged the parks to remove beach pilings to maintain the beauty and safety of New York's beaches.

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

As a State Senator I have done a lot to encourage public transportation, including: establishment of the Quiet Zone on the Staten Island Ferry, Access-a-Ride, and railway, ferry, and express bus services. Additionally, I supported Mayor Bloomberg's solar energy installation at Freshkills Park in Staten Island in 2013.