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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Assemblyman Frank Skartados

Office Sought (district if applicable): New York State Assembly, 104th AD

Website: frankforassembly.com

Facebook Page: Frank Skartados for State Assembly

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

I initiated legislation A8931 to ban any dangerous crude oil pipeline on the NYS Thruway. As the chairperson of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources I have sponsored legislation that benefits soil and water conservation districts and land management practices that protect the environment. Naturally, I fully supported the ban on fracking and supported all renewable energy legislation. I was also instrumental in the 2015-16 budget to prevent the Governor's budget from changing brownfield reimbursements that would have crippled future mitigation by disallowing remediation work that was previously approved. I've been endorsed by the New York League of Conservation Voters and received an award from the Adirondack Council.

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

I supported all state budgets that included funding for environmental programs and state departments such as the 2016-17 budget which included \$1.4 billion for the environment and \$300 million for the Environmental Protection Fund.

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

Since I've been in office I have consistently voted on budgets and supported legislation designed to reduce greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, such as \$14 million for the newly established Climate Smart Communities Program to fund clean vehicles, and to increase the funding to EPF and the DEC. I support A.6072 Englebright's bill to authorize the DEC to adopt rules and regulations establishing a limit on greenhouse gas emissions.

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

I vote for all legislation that protects human life and the environment from toxic chemicals. I voted for the Paulin legislation that will prohibit pesticides on playgrounds, the Dinowitz bill that requires the Commissioner of Health be more proactive regarding paint and lead poisoning, and the Englebright bill that protects children from harmful chemicals in the products they wear and use.

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

I initiated A8931, a bill that will prevent the Pilgrim Pipeline LLC from building a dangerous and toxic pipeline intended to go parallel to the NYS Thruway and runs through open space, aquifers, and wetlands.

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

I initiated A10468 a bill that added towns to an already existing transportation corporation law that gave cities and villages the legislative power to reject a pipeline through their jurisdiction. I wrote letters to the NYDEC and the Federal Transportation Administration urging them to ban old and outdated oil rail cars and instead use new double hulled cars. As a member of the Upstate Democratic Caucus I secured additional funding in the state budget to increase expenditures on infrastructure.

