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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

Campaign Contact Information

Candidate Name: JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.

Office Sought (district if applicable): NYS SENATE, DISTRICT 15

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

As a State Senator who represents a district which was severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy, I fully understand the need for strong environmental protection and resiliency strategies which will protect our natural environment and the communities that it supports. I served briefly as the Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Hurricane Sandy, which produced a report outlining recommendations on storm relief, contingency planning and disaster mitigation. I was a major, vocal opponent of fracking. Locally in my district, I have identified the issue of unacceptable railroad emissions and supported funding for the purchase of new efficient Tier 3 and Tier 4 engines. In addition, I sponsor many district wide events that encourage and assist my constituents in practicing environmental protection practices. I sponsor a biannual recycling event, which has now totaled 112 tons of recycled electronics and 36 tons of paper. Recently, I have worked with the NYC DEP to sponsor free rain barrel give-away events and have distributed over 500 barrels. I am also an active member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

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)

Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

I was pleased to support the final state budget that included $300 million for the EPF, an increase of $123 million from the previous budget, which also provides an additional $100 million for water quality infrastructure. I also strongly supported the budget provision for the Zero Emissions Vehicle and Electric Vehicle Rebate Program that will provide incentives to consumers who wish to utilize alternative energy sources. Finally, I am opposed to using the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds for other than their intended purpose, and I will continue to oppose the raiding of RGGI funds. RGGI is an extraordinarily successful program that has significantly reduced carbon in our environment, while saving consumers and businesses millions of dollars since its inception.

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

I am the prime sponsor of legislation (S3001) which would establish the NYS Climate Change Task Force to research the projected impacts of climate change to the state and to create a comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Although several of our state agencies such as DEC and NYSERDA address climate change issues, I believe it is imperative to create such a task force with appropriate stakeholders to make recommendations and coordinate action to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change.

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

I have both prime sponsored and co-sponsored legislation to ban fracking in our state. In addition, I submitted many comments to the DEC and the Governor's office during the public comment period, urging caution on taking this monumental step in energy extraction. I believe the Governor's decision to ban fracking was a direct result of

advocates and legislators working together in making a credible argument against fracking and its destructive, irreversible effects on our environment. In 2015, I worked towards the prevention of the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas facility proposed by Liberty Natural Gas (LNG). This proposed project, while harmful to the environment, would have also prevented an off shore wind project, which I support, from advancing. As mentioned, I advocated for funding to purchase new, more efficient Tier 3 and Tier 4 engines in my district. I am a co-sponsor of the following bills: S485B which requires labeling of foods which contain GMO's, and bills S4102A and S5995 which relate to the regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products.

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

I believe we need immediate action regarding the protection of the quality of our drinking water, which was one of the main reasons I opposed fracking. I recently became a co-sponsor of S7103, which addresses the testing for lead in the drinking water of our schools. We also need to protect our open spaces. I embraced this issue ever since I was Chair of the Parks Committee in the NYC Council. I am pleased that our state completed the acquisition of 69,000 acres of land in the Adirondack Park with the purchase of the Boreus Ponds tract in Essex County.

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

Locally, I am working with the NYC Department of Transportation on a proposed Select Bus Service, in discussions with the MTA regarding the future use of the old Rockaway line and involved with the city's plan to re-institute the Rockaway ferry operation in 2017. I have had discussions with stakeholders involving a microgrid plan in the Rockaway portion of my district.