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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: John T. McDonald III

Office Sought (district if applicable): NYS Assembly 108th AD

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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.

Highest accomplishment is the creation in last years budget of the Clean Water Infrastructure Gran program. This is a program myself and my colleague Steve Otis of Rye approached Speaker Heastie with the idea of creating a state funding grant program to be paired with the EFC Loan program. We approved \$200 million in last years budget and added \$200 million this recently passed budget.

Combined with an historic increase in EPF Funding overall, we are making some positive strides as it relates to the environmental agenda overall.

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

As mentioned above the Clean Water Grant Program and EPF Funding are solid examples

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

In this area my primary focus has been to support the long range renewable goal which will reduce our dependency of fossil fuels as well. As one who represents low income urban neighborhoods I have also been supportive of agencies and programs that work to improve energy efficiency and lower daily operational costs to our constituents. I am also sensitive supportive of our farmers as they need to be sustainable if we are to have healthy food choices in our minority communities.

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

Whether it is mercury or triclosan, my voting record is consistent with the agenda of NYLCV. Additionally I work closely with Community Roots and the City of Albany and DOH on food security, community gardens and programs geared towards educating our youth on proper nutrition for healthy lifestyles.

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

This past budget the EPF witnessed targeted increases to move along the recycling program, to increase funding for water quality and to preserve open space. We have also increased funding for invasive species as well.

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

We have sponsored several bills as it relates to the transport of crude oil. It needs to be done safely especially in our environmental justice areas many of whom I represent. I have and continue to support projects like the Watervliet organic digester as we hope to make it a model for all communities. I also supported more bike and pedestrian programs and funding to encourage less car use and a more healthier lifestyle.