



30 Broad Street – 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004
212-361-6350
politics@nylcv.org
www.nylcv.org

2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Kemp Hannon

Office Sought (district if applicable): 6th District, NY Senate

Website: www.electhannon.com

Facebook Page: Kemp Hannon

Twitter handle: kemphannon and Senator Kemp Hannon

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

1. Accomplishments or Experiences that indication your commitment to advancing pro-environment agenda

Protecting our environment is among the most important actions we can take both personally and professionally. As a state legislator, in addition to supporting measures that actively protect the environment, I consider potential consequences associated with all policy decisions to ensure we do not inadvertently negatively impact the environment.

Representing a Long Island community that relies on aquifers for drinking water I am particularly sensitive to the importance of keeping our land and water free of toxins. My district is home to the former Northrup Grumman Navy Yard in Bethpage which has, over time, leaked toxins into the underground water plume. In 2014, after years of fighting for cleanup of the site, my legislation was signed into law requiring DEC to take affirmative action to create a cleanup plan. That law lead the way to Grumman finally taking responsibility for the cleanup and containment of toxins to avoid further contamination.

As Chair of the Senate's Standing Committee on Health I am keenly aware of the importance environmental factors play on our health. This year I co-sponsored the Tricolosan Awareness Act (S6636A) to prohibit the sale of cleaning products containing these harmful compounds. I also co-sponsored legislation (S8158) to ensure schools and BOCES test their water systems for lead. I am pleased that this important measure will go to the Governor and anticipate it being signed into law soon. I also sponsored and pushed for legislation (S5903A), which passed both houses of the legislature, to create a program for the donation and re-dispensing of pharmaceutical prescriptions. Far too much medicine ends up in our landfills and waste water when it could be used to treat others who lack insurance or are under insured. This program will serve the dual purposes of keeping medicine out of our ground water and helping those who need medicine get access to it. Another environmental issue which is of particular concern to me given my role as the Health Committee Chair, is legislation I co-sponsor to require the labeling of products and seeds produced with genetic engineering (S485). Consumers should be provided information about how their food is produced so that they can make informed decisions. Unfortunately, the federal government has not followed other countries in establishing labeling standards, thus leaving the responsibility to states to require such labeling.

2. Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

I am proud to have voted for the Senate's budget proposal as well as the final 2016-17 SFY adopted budget which included funding for the Environmental Protection Fund at a record level of \$300 million. This represents a 70% increase in funding over the previous fiscal year. Additionally, the budget provides an additional \$200 million for the Water Quality Infrastructure Improvement Act over the next two years. Added to last year's funding, this provides \$350 million to municipalities to repair and replace existing wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. I also co-sponsored and voted for legislation (S3517-B) which passed the Senate this session requiring a plan be developed for the repayment of funds to the EPF that have been swept to the general fund over the years.

3. Addressing the causes and effects of climate change

In addition to the aforementioned, the SFY 2016-17 enacted budget created a new climate account within the EPF. I supported this initiative which provides for \$22 million for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, \$14 million of which goes toward the climate smart communities' competition. I also supported a bill making energy-efficient upgrades more affordable for homeowners and businesses (S6914). The bill would allow homeowners and businesses to obtain a low interest loan through NYSERDA to make energy efficiency improvements or to install on-site renewable energy, and allow repayment of the loan through their monthly utility bill. I also supported a bill which creates a tax credit for the purchase and installation of geothermal energy systems (S6249), which are a natural and renewable form of energy. I also supported the solar panel collection act (S7789) which establish an infrastructure to accommodate for the long term management of solar waste as more and more New York residents move to alternative forms of energy, and the

establishment of a state clean energy tech production program (S7840) which would stimulate the growth and adoption of more efficient use of energy and encourage utilization of renewable energy resources.

4. Protecting the health of New Yorkers and their communities

As previously mentioned, being the Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Health, I am constantly focused on measures to protect the health of New Yorkers. This year, I authored legislation to require the Cancer Incidence and Environmental Facility Maps to be updated at least once every 5 years (S6934). This measure which was adopted in the budget will ensure access to more timely data to determine whether environmental, occupational, or social factors influence the rates of certain cancers in order to inform health care professionals and the public. In last year's budget we extended for an additional ten years the Brownfield Cleanup program, which will allow for the continuation of remediation tax credits to encourage cleanup and redevelopment of contaminated sites. I also co-sponsored legislation that was essential to protecting the health of children by requiring lead testing of water in schools across the state (S8158). Several other measures I sponsor to protect the environmental health of New Yorkers include:

- S6636 - the Triclosan Awareness Act which prohibits the sale of cleaning products containing triclosan, triclocarban or derivatives;
- S485 - which requires the labeling of genetically engineered seed, seed stock and human food offered for retail sale in New York;
- S1879 – which prohibits the use of pentachlorophenol in new utility poles, and requiring the posting of warnings to inform people about the dangers of contact with PCP on existing poles;
- S6824 – which allows personal injury actions arising from exposure to chemicals to be commenced by a plaintiff within three years of that site's designation as a state or federal superfund site; and
- S3060-A – which requires solid waste management facilities accepting waste from oil and gas drilling operations to screen such waste for radioactivity.

To promote healthy communities and to ensure sustainability of New York's agricultural industry, I proudly supported two bills which encourage buying local, the "Buy from the Backyard" bill (S6648), which requires State agencies who purchase food products to purchase 20% of their total contracts within New York State, and the "Grown in New York" bill (S519-A), which increases awareness and consumption of locally grown and produced foods. These measures not only encourage healthy eating and the protection of agricultural land, but they also reduce environmental impacts associated with the import and transport of products.

5. Conserving and protecting natural resources

Legislation I sponsor to establish the unused prescription drug donation and redispensing program (S5903), passed both houses this year and I am hopeful it will be signed



by the Governor. This legislation, in combination with legislation I sponsored last year (S3687) which authorizes pharmacies and other DEA authorized collectors to collect unused medications, will increase proper disposal methods and decrease the number of medications that are thrown away, flushed or otherwise discarded in a manner where they harm our water supply.

In this year's budget we appropriated millions to protect and preserve natural resources including: \$40 million in the EPF for land acquisition to protect open space, \$20 million in the EPF for water quality improvement, \$28 million for public access and stewardship, \$12 million for the invasive species program, \$9 million for soil and water conservation districts in habitat protection, and \$14 million in the EPF for municipal recycling. I also sponsored the "New York State Ocean Acidification Task Force" (S7908), which is charged with identifying the causes and factors contributing to ocean acidification and evaluating ways of addressing the problem by applying the best available science. It is my sincere hope that the task force will lead to solutions to protect marine wildlife, and New York's coastal resources.

I voted against S7336, which prohibited the imposition of fees for plastic bags, because I believe the State should encourage recycling and conservation of our natural resources. I supported a bill which establishes an industry-sponsored Paint Stewardship Program (S4926-C), which directs the DEC to create a plan to collect, transport, reuse, recycle and/or burn post-consumer paint using environmentally sound practices. In addition, I supported legislation (S602) which would establish a forestry stewardship and habitat conservation credit for personal income and business franchise taxes, thereby reducing forest fragmentation, increasing the economic contributions of our forests and supporting private stewardship efforts by individual owners, families and businesses.

6. Investing in better, smarter infrastructure

I supported this year's budget which provides an additional \$200 million for the Water Quality Infrastructure Improvement Act. The budget also included a zero emissions vehicles rebate program which provides for rebates up to \$2,000 for the use of electric vehicles and plug in hybrids. In addition, funding of up to \$250,000 will be available to municipalities for the creation of charging /refueling stations. I also supported legislation that passed the Senate (S7840), which would establish a state clean energy tech production program which would direct the Public Service Commission to establish a self-direct program for its industrial, commercial and large users, in order to stimulate the growth and adoption of more efficient use of energy. I was proud to support S8026, which proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to allow the use of state lands for the burial of public utilities and to establish a land bank for public projects and utilities in the Adirondacks. This bill would allow for modernization of regional infrastructure which is needed to keep towns and villages in the park economically viable while also increasing funding for the acquisition of new lands for the preservation of wilderness.