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## 2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

### CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Patricia Fahy

Office Sought (district if applicable): NYS Assembly, 109<sup>th</sup> District

Website: [www.patriciafahy.com](http://www.patriciafahy.com)

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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.

I was first elected to the NYS Assembly in 2012. I have a strong environmental record both before I was elected and as a legislator. In fact, I was endorsed by the League in 2012 and 2014.

When first elected to the Assembly, I sought and received membership on the Environmental Conservation Committee, where I have been an active member. I sponsored the first legislation in New York requiring new safety measures for crude oil train storage facilities, a major concern to residents of the 109<sup>th</sup> Assembly district and the Capital Region. This bill, which has passed the Assembly two years in a row would require major petroleum facilities to demonstrate financial responsibility and require certain financial preparedness information from railroads. I was also the lead sponsor on legislation that eases the process between municipalities and utilities enabling municipalities to purchase their streetlights and make increased energy efficiencies and revenue increases possible. This legislation passed both houses and was signed into law by Governor Cuomo in 2015. This session, I am a co-sponsor of legislation designed to address the lead in school drinking water crisis and support testing at the tap in all schools for lead and copper.

I am a founding member of the NYS Caucus of Environmental Legislators. Locally, I am a

passionate advocate for the Helderberg Hudson Rail Trail, and ride my bike to work whenever I can.

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 was pleased to support the inclusion of \$300 million in the budget for the EPF. This money will help with various programs including recycling, open space protection, farmland preservation, water quality improvement projects, environmental justice and public health initiatives. In total the recently enacted state budget contains over \$1.4 billion for environmental agencies and programs.

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

I support the Assembly's efforts to provide funding for climate change programs. While I wish the amount was higher, in this year's state budget the EPF has received funding for several climate change initiatives, including: money for greenhouse gas management outside the power sector; money for vulnerability assessments; money for the new Climate Smart Communities Program to fund clean vehicles, flood mitigation and coastal resiliency; and money for Climate Resilient Farms.

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

I am proud to be a co-sponsor of A. 5612-A which restricts the use of harmful chemicals in children's products and prohibits the sale of products with the most harmful chemicals. I also support legislation to prohibit the application of pesticides to playgrounds and playing fields except in emergencies.

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

As stated above, the EPF funding in this year's budget includes money for open space, municipal recycling, waterfront revitalization non-point source pollution control, money for water testing, and other measures. As a member of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development and as chair of

the Subcommittee on Oversight of DEC, I can assure you that advocating for the environment is one of my top priorities. I demonstrate this not only in my legislative work but through my support of local community environmental groups such as the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. I've also sponsored legislation signed into law by Governor Cuomo in 2014 that would provide to a local municipality in my district to provide for a substantial property tax exemption for landowners who agree to conserve open space, either for an extended period of years or in perpetuity.

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

Besides my legislation with respect to the rail transportation of crude oil, I supported several projects in the state budget including increased funding for upstate transit systems, more money for road and bridge projects throughout the State, and the Airport Improvement and Revitalization program (AIR 99).