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## 2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

### CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: Rodneyse Bichotte

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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 have been the prime- and co-sponsor of several pieces of environmental legislation. In addition, I have supported the use of significant State resources to address issues around water quality and infrastructure. Lastly, I stood with my colleagues in the NYS Assembly to support 100% clean energy by 2030.

Recently, I hosted with my colleague Assemblymember Latrice Walker, Chair of the Subcommittee on Renewable Energy, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, and State Senator Kevin Parker to examine access to energy, in particular the targeting of neighborhoods of color by energy service companies (ESCO's) that offer savings and discounts, but often result in higher utility prices, access to the green economy, and appraising constituents of President Obama's Climate Action Plan.

In addition, several years ago before I moved to New York State. I lived in Illinois. That experience made me keenly aware of a wide range of environmental issues, especially as it related to the Great Lakes. These same issues impact parts of upstate New York such as safeguarding the environment against the effects of climate change, as well as the water quality. I see environmental issues as one of those unifying issues across party affiliation -- whereby more and more people are realizing that we as humans are stewards of the earth, and know that we must take care of it.

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 am proud to say that I fully supported the inclusion of a \$300 million investment in the Environmental Protection Fund in this year's enacted budget. This investment is to help ensure the quality and safety of New York's water supply and infrastructure.

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

I understand that climate change is real – Superstorm Sandy is just an indication of things to come. I am very supportive of efforts on both the city and state level to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as the State's investment in Climate Smart Communities, as well as its commitment to implementing a Zero-Emission Vehicle program, and the City's initiatives to reduce emissions in the power, transportation, and the solid waste sector.

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

I support A0671, which is anti-GMO legislation. It is important that people know if their food has been altered or not. This legislation serves three primary functions: 1) it provides for the labeling of raw agricultural commodities, processed foods, seed, and seed stock produced with genetic engineering; 2) it defines terms of what is GMO; and 3) it imposes penalties for false labels and misbranding (with some exemptions).

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

I am the prime sponsor of A6816, which seeks to authorize the New York state energy research and development authority to develop a temporary middle-income home energy assistance program. I am also a co-sponsor of A0130, which prohibits the acceptance of wastewater from oil or natural gas extraction activities at wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, and A5797, which relates to energy conservation and water temperature management. This bill would also require a study to be performed on the monetary and energy savings that can be accomplished through better water temperature management. Lastly, I support the anti-fracking ban that is currently in place throughout the State.

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

In relation to investing in better and smarter infrastructure, I have co-sponsored A7965, which requires gas corporations to file a plan with the public service commission addressing aging or leaking pipelines within their service territory and outlining plans for the replacement of such pipelines, A7996, which relates to extending, in a city with a population of one million or more, the bus rapid transit program, and A9500, which authorizes the New York state energy research and development authority to study significantly improving high-performance efficiency in commercial office buildings. These changes in how we address aging pipelines, expand public transportation, and construct energy efficient buildings will have long term impacts.