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**2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire**

**Campaign Contact Information**

Candidate Name: Timothy M. Kennedy   
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Please share your accomplishments or experiences that indicate your commitment to advancing a pro-environment agenda. These experiences may be professional or personal.

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| I am committed to advancing an agenda that protects our natural resources. That is why I have worked with local organizations such as the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and Honeywell to clean up and protect the Buffalo River. Buffalo and Western New York was the center of heavy industry, industry that created hundreds of thousands of jobs, but that also polluted our air, land and waterways. I also worked with Riverkeeper again and Citizens Campaign for the Environment to identify the great threat triclosan presents to the greater Buffalo waterfront, and entire Great Lakes system, and I introduced Senate legislation to cease this chemical’s use. Further, I have worked with the Department of Environmental Conservation to identify Brownfield Opportunity Areas, two of which are located in my district. As a strong advocate for the Brownfield’s tax credit and Brownfield Cleanup Program, I have worked with many local companies and municipalities to clean up contaminated sites and dredge contaminated waterways. I also understand the need to reform these programs to ensure they are going solely to areas that are severely contaminated and would not be redeveloped otherwise. To protect the health of Western New Yorkers, I worked with the Clean Air Coalition to demand a more thorough investigation of air quality in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Peace Bridge. Significant research had been done that pointed to elevated asthma and other respiratory illnesses in the communities surrounding the Peace Bridge. As a Senator, I will continue to push the DEC and DOT to monitor and improve air quality in our region. I also support and am cosponsor to the Child Safe Products Act, to protect children from toys that may contain harmful chemicals. There is no denying that climate change is real and recent extreme weather occurrences point to a need to update our utility infrastructure to increase resiliency and redundancy. For that reason, I support increased oversight to ensure that New York is better prepared for these extreme events. We also must combat climate change by implementing policies to drastically reduce carbon and methane emissions. |

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](http://nylcv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/StatewideAgenda2016-FINAL-lowres.pdf))

Ensuring adequate funding for the environmental agencies and programs

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| I support full funding for these agencies and programs and most recently wrote a letter to the Governor, as well as Senate leadership, urging at least $300 million in funding for the Environmental Protection Fund in the 2016-2017 Budget to counter recession cuts. While our goal may not have been met this year, I will continue to fight to protect and increase these vital funds. |

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

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| I fully support the need for emission control goals and incentives in NYS, as well as nationwide. I continue to advocate for plans to convert coal power plants in upstate New York to clean, energy efficient power generation facilities that do not have an adverse impact on ratepayers, but help lead New York to a clean energy future. |

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

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| I was a cosponsor and continue my support for the Child Safe Products Act, as well as carry new legislation to prevent and eventually eliminate the use of triclosan in products. I think safety in children’s toys, personal hygiene products, and food products is of utmost concern for our community and I will carry on the fight to promote legislation and policies that best safeguard these products and our environment. As far as air qualify, I fully support efforts to end the use of home heating oils #4 and #6 and instead replace this with #2 heating oil or an electric alternative. Further, providing incentives for the production of local food sources cuts down on unnecessary transportation, provides families with more nutritious and fresh foods, and helps to alleviate issues associated with “food desserts.” I support any and all efforts to conserve farmland in regional foodsheds and efforts to expand and maintain the FreshConnect program. |

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

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| In addition to my continued pushes for increased funding for environmental conservation, I have urged NYSERDA to set incremental state goals for increasing our reliance on renewable, clean energy sources such and wind and solar. I supported and worked with various organizations looking to assist state agency’s compliance with the Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 88, which requires state owned facilities to undergo Energy Performance Contracting, making state facilities more energy efficient.  Also, I was one of the only upstate members of the New York State Senate to vote against legislation that would increase the weight of vehicles defined as ATVs. While the legislation is popular in upstate and western New York, I refused to support legislation that could harm our natural resources and disturb state parkland.  Further, I support efforts to protect water quality and back country lands of the Adirondack Park region. This includes ensuring that parkland remains as parkland in perpetuity, along with other protected habitats across the state. As a State, we must protect these national treasures for future generations to enjoy.  Finally, I support organic recycling efforts, particularly those gaining momentum in other areas of the state and I will continue to work to bring such programs to Western New York. |

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

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| Events like Hurricane Sandy and this past Buffalo Storm reminded us all the importance of storm resiliency and utility redundancy. New York must better prepare for these extreme weather events, which are unfortunately becoming more frequent. With increased oversight, we can ensure storm-hardening of utilities like natural gas, and eventually reduce methane emissions. I support efforts to increase oversight in these areas, as well as efforts to expand and strengthen the electrical grid. Additionally, I have been very outspoken about the need to update NY’s aging infrastructure, particularly water lines to prevent water use inefficiencies caused by damaged pipes and outages. As with storm-hardening utilities, we must also implement transit-hardening strategies in at-risk areas to protect public transit infrastructure and train and bus fleets, especially flood-vulnerable underground infrastructure. Finally, I support strict controls on crude oil rail transport, because the danger of potential accidents with this cargo is too dire to take its use lightly. |