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2016 Environmental Candidate Questionnaire

CAMPAIGN CONTACT INFORMATION

Candidate Name: William Colton

Office Sought (district if applicable): Member of Assembly 47 Assembly District

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 became involved in political activities in a community fight to shut down the Southwest Brooklyn Incinerator, which was contaminating the air, the water and the land of Southwest Brooklyn from 1959 thru 1989. After becoming an attorney I represented the community prop bono, to stop the city from re-opening the closed incinerator without doing the required EIS. This began a long history of pro environment activities as a member of the Environmental Conservation Assembly Committee, Chair of the Legislative Commission on Solid waste. Among the legislation I authored was waste tire remediation and the tire recycling fee, requirement of wireless providers to take back old cell phones, requiring recycling of mercury auto switches, electronic recycling of TV's and Computers which was eventually included in Governor Paterson's budget. I introduced and supported legislation to ban fracking in NY and currently have introduced legislation to require striving toward a goal of 100 % clean renewal energy by 2030, requiring 50% recycling of C&D debris, sets minimum statewide standards for recycling and banning comingling of recyclable by haulers, and providing incentives for solar energy panels, among numerous others. I have co sponsored numerous legislation to protect air, water and land pollution, and to ban dangerous substances such as triclosan, lead, mercury etc. I also supported and fought for increases in the EPF and in

funding for recycling and secondary markets programs in the budget. I support reclaiming lands in upstate Adirondack regions for open land to preserve our environment.

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

For numerous years I have strongly advocated for increased funding of the EPF and spoken out against the raiding of this important fund. I have written and spoken out in favor of more monies for DEC to provide more enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. I believe this years budget of 300 million for the EPF is welcome news after years of fighting and monies for capital projects to protect water quality are long overdue. We must continue to fight for and demand such actions

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

I have supported and co sponsored A10342 to enact the NYS Climate and Community Protection act. And A5786 to establish the Climate Change Solutions fund. I have a long history of being a strong advocate for legislation to recognize and act upon the critical problems in connection with the reality of climate change

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

I have supported and co-sponsored numerous legislation to protect the health of New Yorkers and the Community. such as A9230 (tricolosan awareness), A5612 (banning toxic chemicals in toys), A10740 (lead testing in schools) and many others

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

I strongly supported this year's budget inclusion of \$500,000 to protect safe water and clean air. I have a long history of mobilizing to protect the quality of water and air. I have a long history of supporting the EPF, especially for acquiring open spaces and for promoting recycling. Numerous legislation I introduced passed into law promoting recycling including laws to require recycling of cell phones, mercury switches in autos, waste tires and electronic recycling of TV, computers, etc. I currently have legislation to establish the minimum recycling requirements in solid waste plans, to require minimum standards for recycling of C & D waste, and for requiring recycling in NYC Parks, etc. I cosponsored A3382 regarding setting up High environmental Impact Zones.

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

I have strongly supported and co sponsored numerous legislation promoting green building and green design, requiring the recycling of C & D materials. I introduced legislation, requiring moving to 100 % renewable energy sources by 2030 and co-sponsored other legislation to move toward clean renewable energy. I co-sponsored A 1307 (geothermal energy systems), a315 (banning car idling), and other pro environment legislation