November 7, 2019

Dear Candidate,

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter is one of our state’s largest and most influential non-partisan environmental organizations. We represent approximately 150,000 members and supporters throughout Michigan.

Sierra Club makes the connection between a healthy democracy and a healthy planet. A significant bi-partisan majority of Michiganders want clean air, clean safe drinking water, healthy, safe food, and a thriving natural world that we can all enjoy. Our Great Lakes, the safety of our agricultural system, and the air we breathe are threatened by the same broken system: a democracy that has been hijacked to serve the financial interests of the few at the expense of everyone else.

The Sierra Club makes endorsement determinations based on your answers to our questionnaire. This questionnaire is designed to help us assess candidates’ understanding of the relationship between social justice and our severely impacted environment. It is clear that the drinking water crisis in Flint resulted from the disenfranchisement of local voters through the imposition of an emergency manager. It is also clear that the amount of dark money flowing into our elections has resulted in continuously weakened and de-funded state regulatory agencies and that the weakened regulatory circumstances contributed to the Flint Water tragedy. The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter endorses candidates that will support environmental protection, and those who will fight to help our democracy reflect the interests of all Michiganders instead of the narrow interests of a select few.

A Sierra Club endorsement comes with resources that will help your campaign. These include: issuing a press release announcing the endorsement; communicating with our members about your candidacy; and, providing you the ability to use our name and endorsement seal in your campaign materials. If your race is a priority for our Political Program, you may also receive additional resources such as: a political intern; recruiting SC members to volunteer for your campaign; or a PAC donation.

You must submit your responses to our questionnaire to be considered for endorsement.

Your reasoning behind your positions is important to us, so please provide detail where requested. Questionnaires are for internal Sierra Club use – we do not release questionnaire responses to the public.

The deadline for returning your endorsement questionnaire to be eligible for endorsement before the primary election is: **May 21st, 2020 at noon.** After the Primary, submitted questionnaires will be reviewed and considered as they are received. You should be aware that the Sierra Club follows a two-step process in determining an endorsement. The Political Committee must first recommend endorsement and the Chapter Executive Committee must approve the endorsement. So, the sooner your answers to the questionnaire are received, the better.
Quick ID| Last Name:                  House/Senate District Sought:                            Party Affiliation:

Please submit your completed questionnaire via E-mail to Christy.McGillivray@sierraclub.org. DO NOT mail or fax in your questionnaire. We are only accepting questionnaire responses via E-mail. Please submit this in one of the following formats: MS Word, Google doc, or PDF. Where at all possible, this questionnaire has been sent to you via email.

If you have questions about our endorsement process, please contact:
Christy McGillivray, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Director at christy.mcgillivray@sierraclub.org or (808) 726-5325.

You will receive a confirmation E-mail when your questionnaire is received. If you send in your questionnaire and do not receive a confirmation within 3 days, please alert us as soon as possible.

Please also put the following information into the subject line of your email:
Candidate Name and House District Number

Good luck with your campaign!

Sincerely,

Mark Meadows, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Chair
Christy McGillivray, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Political Director
Tim Minotas, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter Legislative & Political Coordinator

2020
Endorsement Questionnaire for Michigan House of Representatives

Candidate Name:
House District Number:
Party Affiliation:
Are you a Sierra Club member?

Campaign Committee Name:
Address/Zip:
Phone:
E-mail:
Campaign Website:
Facebook page:
Twitter handle:
Contact person (someone other than the candidate):
Name of individual completing this questionnaire:
The Sierra Club is interested in the reasons behind your positions. Please provide as much detail as possible.

1. PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY
Please give a brief biography outlining relevant experience, public offices held, involvement in environmental causes, and membership in any environmental organizations. You are also welcome to submit your biography as a separate document with this questionnaire if that is easier for you.

2. PERSONAL PRIORITIES

Identify your top environmental concerns,

Describe your environmental achievement(s) and/or your actions which you believe have had the most impact on protecting the environment:

As of the date of submission of this questionnaire, what are your campaign’s fundraising and voter contact goals? How much progress have you made toward accomplishing these goals so far

3. GREAT LAKES PROTECTION
After decades of regulatory negligence, chronic underfunding, and corporate malfeasance, environmental protections once meant to clean up and protect our Great Lakes have been degraded. The signs are everywhere; toxic chemicals pollution, large algae blooms from factory farm pollution, invasive species, agricultural wastes dumped in waterways, proliferation of shoreline development, disappearing habitats for wildlife, and weakened wetland protections. The Great Lakes are also threatened by aging oil pipelines and new pipeline proposals. When the Lakes are unhealthy, it is a drain on our economy and it means fewer jobs for the region, especially Michigan. Just as concerning, unhealthy lakes mean fewer people can enjoy our beaches, our fishing, our waterways and the clean, affordable drinking water upon which we rely.

A. Do you support decommissioning Enbridge’s Line 5 pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac, and oppose replacing Line 5 with a new oil tunnel underneath the bottomlands of the Straits of Mackinac?
   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
   Explain:

B. Do you support the expansion of the public trust doctrine in statute to groundwater of our state? Here is a brief primer on public trust.
   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
   Explain:
C. Will you support legislation aimed at reducing agricultural nutrient runoff which leads to toxic algae blooms in the Great Lakes? This includes banning the application of livestock manure/waste and chemical fertilizers on frozen or snow-covered ground, and reducing the agronomic rate for phosphorus from manure applications to match the rate recommended for other forms of phosphorus fertilizer.

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

4. ADVANCING BOLD CLIMATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH CLEAN ENERGY
Climate disruption is the greatest environmental challenge of this century and is the Sierra Club’s number #1 priority. Science demands that we take bold action to reduce carbon pollution.

For the health of the planet, the public, and the economy, Michigan must continue to transition to a 100% clean energy future, and do so in ways that advance economic, racial, and gender justice and create family-sustaining jobs. We must consistently choose clean energy over the dirty fuels of the past.

A. Indicate in detail your understanding of the seriousness of climate change and what you believe the Michigan Legislature should do about it.

One of the solutions to expanding renewable energy is through energy freedom. Energy freedom seeks to expand microgrids, community solar, get rid of the cap on net metering, as well as improve rates that customers receive for power sent back to the grid through rooftop solar. It gives people more freedom on how to spend their hard-earned money by empowering them to make decisions about the energy they use.

B. Do you support requiring Michigan’s utility companies to invest in at least 1.5% additional renewable energy on an annual basis?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

C. Do you support requiring Michigan’s utility companies to achieve at least a 2% annual increase in energy efficiency?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

D. Do you support the right of ratepayers to be able to produce their own clean, renewable energy at a fair rate?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

5. HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FOR NATURAL GAS
The electric utility industry is using the retirement of coal-burning power plants as an excuse to increase our country’s dependence on unsustainable fracked gas fueled electric power plants, instead of maximizing energy efficiency and renewable energy. Overproduction of fracked gas (despite a lack of demand) has driven the expansion of pipelines into and throughout Michigan, which are disrupting local communities and increasing our dependence on fossil fuels.

A. Will you advocate for Michigan to focus on increasing renewable energy investments instead of natural gas and the expansion of natural gas pipelines and infrastructure?
   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
   Explain:

6. PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY
Current state lawmakers are making it harder for individuals to vote and increasing the role of money in politics while decreasing political campaign finance transparency. In 2018, Michigan voters overwhelmingly supported proposals 2 and 3 which ended partisan gerrymandering by establishing an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and made voting more accessible, secure and fair for everyone who wants to participate in our elections. However, there have been attempts to thwart both of these voter-passed initiatives within the state legislature. Undermining these reforms would erode public confidence in government, make it harder for citizens to vote and have their voices be heard, as well make it harder to achieve conservation victories through the state legislature.

A. As a State Legislator, will you support legislation that increases voter participation, strengthens the voice of the people, and enacts campaign finance reform? This includes complete disclosure of all political campaign expenditures by for-profit and nonprofit corporations and all political action committees, including those making independent expenditures?
   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
   Explain:

B. Will you oppose any legislation that undermines the success of proposals 2 and 3 from 2018?
   ( ) Yes
   ( ) No
   Explain:

7. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The Sierra Club is committed to environmental justice principles and working against injustices such as the Flint water crisis. In Michigan, ensuring the right of all people to clean, affordable drinking water is a major environmental justice issue.
A. As a state legislator, what measures would you take to ensure drinking water quality for all? What solutions would you propose to guarantee drinking water access and affordability for all?

B. Will you support and actively promote policies that address racial, economic, social, and environmental justice such as legislation that requires EGLE permit reviews to take into account cumulative air pollution impacts, requires payment of the prevailing wage, provides for hiring from local communities on climate and clean energy projects, secures workforce training and transition planning for coal and fracked gas industry employees, and promotes strong enforcement of environmental laws--especially in the most disproportionately affected communities?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

C. Do you support eliminating the polluter panels that currently oversee EGLE’s permitting and rulemaking processes, and replacing them with citizen commissions to guarantee fair public processes and lift up voices from impacted communities?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

8. PFAS
Perflouroalkyl and polyflouroalkyl (PFAS) are a family of chemicals found in the drinking water of over one million Michiganders. In Michigan we have taken some important steps towards addressing the PFAS crisis by conducting more extensive testing and moving towards setting a drinking water standard PFAS, however, there is much more work to be done. PFAS enters human bodies through a variety of exposure routes, not just through drinking water, and at this point we have a “PFAS cycle” in the environment because of the extent of widespread use of these highly toxic chemicals.

A. As a State Legislator, do you support the regulation of PFAS as a class of chemicals, as well as regulatory standards which will take into account cumulative exposure among vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children and infants, pregnant people, and the chronically ill?

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:

B. As a State Legislator, will you ban the sale and use of PFAS in consumer products such as food packaging and fire fighting foam, and do you support efforts to expand PFAS testing in agricultural products

( ) Yes
( ) No
Explain:
Quick ID| Last Name:                  House/Senate District Sought:                            Party Affiliation:

9. POLLUTER PAY

Under current law, polluters can simply restrict access to a polluted site or aquifer instead of cleaning up or treating the contamination they have caused. This allows polluters to directly profit from the contamination of our land and water. For example, the Pall-Gelman group dumped hundreds of thousands of gallons of 1,4 dioxane into the groundwater of Washtenaw County and the court-approved management allows the pollution to remain and spread because there is no law requiring that Pall-Gelman pump and treat the contaminated water.

A. As a State Legislator, will you support polluter-pay legislation that will require polluters to clean up their toxic pollution?

( ) Yes

( ) No

Explain:

Has the candidate personally approved the responses given in this questionnaire?

( ) Yes

( ) No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. Good luck with your campaign!