

## **If You Want an Advocate for the Environment, Vote for Anne Weisberg**

***By Christine Palm  
Former Vice Chair of the House Environment Committee***

In my six years in the Connecticut House of Representatives — including several as vice chair of the Environment Committee — I have seen time and again how Republicans like Pat Callahan work to thwart any progress in protecting the environment.

Callahan has a history of claiming to care about the environment, while voting most of the time against it. In the 2023 session, he asked to write an amendment to my bill to create a decarbonization roadmap, and I accepted his amendment without changing so much as a comma; despite this attempt at bipartisanship, he voted against the bill anyway.

This year, I raised an omnibus (multi-faceted) bill to address climate change — H.B. 5004: The Connecticut Climate Protection Act. It passed the House without a single Republican vote. It failed to become law because the threat of a Republican filibuster let by State Senator Steve Harding, Pat Callahan's counterpart in the Senate, kept it from being called the Senate.

Although I tried hard to work with the Ranking (Republican) members of the committee, there was no bipartisan cooperation. Even though Callahan is the House Ranking Member of the Environment Committee, I learned from a GOP caucus member that he did not even discuss the bill with his caucus. Yet every

one of them voted against it without, apparently, understanding what it contained.

This is a real shame, because H.B. 5004 was chock-a-block full of incentives for business that attempt to incorporate “green” practices — so many that even the Connecticut Business and Industry Association approved of much of the bill. So, I was surprised to read in the Greenwich Time that Callahan is in favor of “business affordability.”

For this reason, I hope the voters of the 108th House district will vote for challenger Anne Weisberg. This avowed environmentalist is ready to address the complexities of climate change; Rep. Callahan, in contrast, has publicly doubted whether climate change is real. Weisberg has earned the endorsement of the venerable Connecticut League of Conservation Voters; in contrast, they gave Callahan one of the lowest scores in the House — a mere 30%.

If voters care about this existential crisis, if they want a representative who will fight climate change and listen to young voices who desperately want a sustainable future, the choice is clear. If you want to elect a true advocate for the environment, vote for Anne Weisberg.



***Paid for by Anne for State Rep, Samantha Addonizio-Butts, Treasurer.  
Approved by Anne Weisberg***