



## Wanted, Environmental Champions!

For the last quarter century Sierra Club members have worked to elect leaders who will take action to protect the planet – who will ensure that this and future generations have clean air, clean water, safe and healthy neighborhoods as well as wild lands and open spaces for people and wildlife. With the looming threat of climate disruption, our members intend to support candidates who will put our nation on a path to 100% clean energy by reducing carbon pollution and advancing clean energy technologies in a way that advances justice.

Today more than ever, our nation needs strong leaders to defend bedrock environmental and public health protections and to ensure that America keeps its commitments in the fight against climate disruption. The science is irrefutable--the damage to our planet and our economy is palpably real. We can turn the corner on climate disruption, but only if America's elected leaders take bold action now to put the country on a just path to meet or exceed the carbon reductions of 50% by 2030 that science demands.

### The Challenge for Our Federal Champions

- Ensure the laws that protect clean air, clean water, land and wildlife are defended, enforced and adequately funded.
- Secure aggressive policies to reduce carbon pollution and hold fossil fuel polluters accountable for their pollution, including keeping dirty fuels in the ground.
- Support clean not dirty energy and transportation with our investments and incentives both here and abroad.
- Advance fair trade that puts the interests of communities, workers, and the environment before the interests of multinational corporations.
- Ensure climate solutions are just and protect workers and our most vulnerable communities.
- Protect the rights of voters and limit the power of big money in politics.
- Advance equity and justice for all Americans regardless of race, gender or economic status.

Poll after poll has demonstrated that voters across the country – regardless of demographics or political persuasion – share these values. They believe we do not have to choose between a clean environment and a strong economy. These values are rooted in equity, justice and inclusion: both nature and people deserve justice and full protection under the law. Voters expect their elected representatives to provide leadership that will secure good jobs for America's workers **and** a healthy environment with clean air, clean water, and wild places for this and future generations.

Sierra Club uses the power of our voice and our volunteers on behalf of the candidates we endorse. If you are interested in Sierra Club's endorsement, please complete the attached Sierra Club 2017-2018 Federal Candidate Questionnaire. In addition to your response to the specific questions we invite you to share your views, vision and priorities on these and other environmental challenges.

Please return the completed copy (email is preferred) to both your local Chapter (**Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, PO Box 663, Harrisburg, PA or [jen.quinn@sierraclub.org](mailto:jen.quinn@sierraclub.org)**) and the National Political Team, ([political.desk@sierraclub.org](mailto:political.desk@sierraclub.org) or Sierra Club, 50 F Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, DC 20001).



## Sierra Club 2017-2018 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

*Please provide the information requested below.*

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_Steve Bacher

• **U.S. Senate:** \_\_\_\_\_  
State

• **U.S. House:** \_\_\_\_\_PA-01  
State / District

**Party:** \_\_\_\_\_Democrat

**Primary Date:** \_\_\_\_\_May 15, 2018

**Campaign Committee Name:** \_\_\_\_\_Friends of Steve Bacher

**Address:** \_\_\_\_PO Box 188

**City / State / Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_Morrisville PA 19067

**Website:** \_\_steve@stevebacher.com

**Campaign Office #:** \_\_\_\_202-425-0484

**Campaign Manager:** \_Mary Melchior    **Cell #:** \_202-425-0484    **Email:** mary@stevebacher.com

**Finance Director:** \_Mira Berzofsky    **Cell #:** 267-632-6994    **Email:** mira.berzofsky@gmail.com

**General Campaign Contact:** \_Steve Bacher    **Cell#:** 267-798-6690

**Email:** info@stevebacher.com

The questions below are representative of some of the diverse environmental issues that the members and supporters of the Sierra Club consider a priority. Your responses to the following questions will be considered confidential, will NOT be posted online or released to the public, and will only be seen by Sierra Club volunteers and staff. For any additional information on the issues raised below please feel free to reference Sierra Club's website, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

## QUESTIONS

*If you have additional comments on any of the issues discussed below please include them in the questionnaire or attach a separate document.*

### ***Advancing Climate Leadership and Protecting Communities***

Climate disruption is the greatest environmental challenge of this century. Science demands that we take bold action to reduce carbon pollution by at least 50% by 2030, yet Congress and the Administration are actively seeking to roll back meaningful actions put in place over the past decade.

**1)** If elected, will you defend the progress we have made to address the challenge of climate change and support additional action to put the country on a path to meet or exceed carbon reductions of 50% by 2030? YES X NO     

Over the past decade the EPA has put forward strong standards to protect public health and to regulate pollution, including carbon pollution. This great progress has had a positive impact on the health of our communities and our efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate disruption, yet these standards and our progress on climate are under threat.

Air and water pollution and the impacts of climate disruption disproportionately impact our nation's poorest families, working class communities, and communities of color, who are more likely to live in areas where air pollution exceeds national standards. Further, low-income and working class families and communities of color are more likely to lack access to adequate healthcare and experience higher levels of unemployment, compounding the situation for too many American families. We must ensure that as we hold polluters accountable and pursue action to address climate disruption the solutions are just and fully address the needs of these communities.

Our communities should be safe, healthy places to live and raise children – with clean air and water free from the dangers of toxic pollution. This goal can be achieved by defending, upholding, and fully funding enforcement of environmental laws that require all polluters, including power plants and factories, to meet stringent standards to reduce carbon, soot, smog, sulfur and other air and water pollution.

**2)** Will you support full funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and defend its authority to regulate, monitor, and enforce strong standards that hold fossil fuel polluters accountable for meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other longstanding and proven safeguards to public health, safety, and the

environment? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**3)** Will you support policies and legislation that drive the cleanup of air and water pollution while prioritizing identification of high impact areas, investments in adequate monitoring and enforcement of laws on the books, and analysis of cumulative impacts faced by overburdened communities? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Advancing a Clean Energy, Climate Smart Economy***

For the health of the planet, the public, and our economy, our nation must continue to transition to a clean energy future. Making a just transition from dirty to clean energy requires consistently choosing clean energy over the dirty fuels of the past; favoring low carbon fuels over high carbon fuels; saying no to major new investments and commitments to dirty fossil fuels and their associated infrastructure; making coal, oil, and natural gas meet the strictest pollution standards; and ensuring that we all use energy as efficiently as possible; and doing so in a way that advances economic, racial, and gender justice.

Our nation's continued reliance on dirty fossil fuel energy not only contributes to climate disruption but also directly threatens our health and wellbeing. Each year coal pollution causes 12,000 emergency room visits and \$100 billion in health costs. Half of the families in our country live in places with unsafe air, 1 out of 10 children suffers from asthma, and recent studies show that coal burning power plants are the number one source of water pollution in America.

Today the fossil fuel industry – coal, oil, and natural gas – benefits from numerous direct and indirect subsidies and from loopholes that allow them to avoid complying with laws to protect our air and water. Congress needs to end these subsidies and close the loopholes. Congress must reject an “all of the above” approach to energy development and instead pursue policies and make investments that will create family-sustaining jobs as they unleash America's clean energy potential.

**4)** Will you defend existing clean energy incentives and support and promote legislation that will expand investment and deployment of renewable energy projects, a just transition from dirty fuels, and move the U.S. toward a 100% clean energy economy by 2050? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**5)** Will you support ending fossil fuel subsidies? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**6)** Will you support proposals to close loopholes that exempt drilling and fracking operations from basic environmental protections provided by laws such as the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**7)** Will you support legislation to protect communities and waterways in Appalachia from pollution and coal-mining waste resulting from the practice of mountaintop removal mining? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**8)** Will you oppose efforts to short circuit the approval process for fossil fuel exports? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**9)** Will you support restriction on public financing for international high carbon projects? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**10)** Will you support legislation to protect the livelihoods of communities and workers that have depended on and been affected by fossil fuels? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

Sierra Club supports investment in a climate smart infrastructure and transportation system that ends our dependence on dirty fuels and cuts carbon pollution. Supporting climate smart strategies, rather than high carbon or dirty fuels systems, will strengthen the growing clean energy economy, support family sustaining union jobs, and increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

A 21st century climate smart infrastructure plan will prioritize renewable energy projects grid modernization, advanced energy efficiency projects, updates to critical water infrastructure, electrification of commercial transportation systems, and will provide Americans with more efficient vehicles and clean, affordable transportation choices such as public transit and safe biking and walking paths.

Congress has the opportunity and challenge to build a transportation system that relies on efficient vehicles, clean fuels, and smart growth that emphasizes clean, convenient, and affordable transportation choices. Congress must pursue performance-based transportation funding, driven by national goals, including a goal to reduce our oil consumption. We support smart, integrated land use and investing in repairing our existing infrastructure before building new roads.

**11)** Will you support and defend federal clean car standards as well as increased federal investment in safe, affordable, and accessible public transportation and electric vehicles to create a 21st century transportation system that reduces oil use and cuts pollution? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**12)** As we pursue infrastructure, we must retain, not weaken, standards for environmental review of proposed projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Will you oppose legislation to undermine the full environmental review of

infrastructure projects? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Promoting a Just Democracy***

Sierra Club's values are rooted in principles of equity, justice and inclusion. We believe both nature and people deserve justice and full protection under the law. We believe in a society that is first and foremost just, fair and rational – one that abhors brutality and favors equality. Whether it's the planet itself or the people who inhabit it, we hold the ideals of respect and reverence in the highest regard. For these reasons, we support policies that not only preserve and protect the environment but promote racial, economic, social, and environmental justice.

**13)** Will you support and actively promote policies that address racial, economic, social, and environmental justice such as legislation that requires payment of the prevailing wage and provides for hiring from local communities on federally-financed climate and clean energy projects and strong enforcement of environmental laws in the most disproportionately affected communities? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

Unfortunately, dirty energy is not just polluting our air and water. It has polluted our democracy as well. Coal, oil, and gas special interests are corrupting our government by trying to buy elections, putting corporate profits above the interests of our country. The fossil fuel industry is spending unprecedented money to influence elections – leveraging this money to drown out the voices of everyday Americans. For example, analysis by Oil Change International indicates the energy industry receives \$59 in federal subsidies for every \$1 they spend on campaign contributions and lobbying. Over the last few years the American public has voiced their increasing concern and frustration about the growing influence of money in politics.

**14)** Will you support legislative actions that protect and strengthen campaign finance reform, such as the Government By the People Act and the Fair Elections Now Act? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**15)** Will you work to protect and expand Americans' constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote by defending the Voting Rights Act and opposing any policies that restrict voters' rights and ballot access? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Defending Our Public Lands***

Keeping dirty fuels in the ground is critical to meeting carbon reduction goals to address climate change, and has the added benefit of protecting some of the most wild and spectacular public lands in the nation. American families enjoy a rich natural heritage of parks, monuments, forests, wilderness and wildlife, but today, a rush to mine, drill and frack for coal, oil and gas threatens the natural, recreational, health and cultural values of special places from the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge, to our public lands and forests across the country and our coasts. Developing these dirty fuels would cause irreparable harm to the environment, damage valuable wildlife habitat, foul our waters, harm indigenous communities, and hurt local economies. As a nation, we must not release new "carbon bombs" from beneath the ground that greatly accelerate climate disruption.

**16)** Will you oppose new drilling in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and other threatened public lands onshore? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**17)** Will you support legislation to designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness and protect it from oil and gas drilling? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

**18)** Will you oppose attempts to dedesignate or compromise existing national monuments and oppose any attempt to weaken the Antiquities Act? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Ensuring Trade Deals are Good for Workers and the Environment***

Past U.S. free trade agreements have undermined the ability of governments to protect the environment and address the climate crisis. For example, past agreements empower corporations to sue governments in private trade tribunals over climate and other protections that affect corporate bottom lines. The template for trade deals, like NAFTA, was written decades ago under the advisement of the fossil fuel industry and other corporate interests. These deals serve one function: to boost corporate profits. The Trump administration has pledged to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and it is clear that this renegotiation will not be based in concern for communities and our climate.

**19)** Will you oppose any trade deal that allows corporations to sue governments in private tribunals, that fails to include binding requirements to implement both the Paris climate agreement and adopt living wages, or that otherwise fails to support a clean environment, healthy communities, and good union jobs? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Reproductive and Environmental Health***

Reproductive and environmental health go hand in hand. Everyone should be able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in a safe and healthy community powered by clean energy and protected from our changing climate. And every mother should be able to plan their families on their terms, to deal with their realities. Many women would like to plan and space their pregnancies, but don't have the knowledge, tools, or power to do so. With access to education, voluntary family planning, and lives powered by clean energy, women and girls at home and around the world are better able to cope with extreme weather events, feed their

families, and live the lives of their choosing.

**20)** Will you support funding for national and international voluntary family planning/reproductive health assistance so that women here in the United States and in other countries are able to voluntarily control their own bodies? YES\_X\_\_NO\_\_

### ***Environmental Leadership***

Please describe leadership you've shown in support of the environment and/or justice, fairness and equity in the natural and human environments in any elected office you've held, or outside of elected office. If you've introduced legislation please describe the success or failure of that legislation. Please address below or attach a separate document.

I have been motivated by concerns about the degradation of our environment for decades. My actions included co-founding a political theater company, volunteering for political campaigns, serving on governmental bodies and volunteering with environmental organizations. My career has been mainly in the nonprofit sector, as an administrator for organizations that help children and families.

My first career was as a theater director – I co-founded a nonprofit theater company, VORTEX Repertory Company, in Austin, Texas, to do political, experimental performances. We produced original plays about environmental degradation, gender issues, violence in America, AIDS and more. I was there from 1988-1992.

In February 1992, I saw then-Senator Al Gore on C-SPAN, talking about his new book, *Earth in the Balance*. I read the book and was moved to volunteer for the 1992 presidential campaign, where I became Deputy Director for the State of Texas for Clinton-Gore.

This led to a position as an Intergovernmental Relations Officer at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton-Gore Administration.

Following my service at HUD, I worked as a grant writer and administrator for Adoption and Foster Care Services for The Children's Aid Society in New York City. I served as Executive Director of the Center for Community Arts in Cape May, NJ, an organization dedicated to preserving African American history in the area and providing arts programs for at-risk youth and senior citizens.

In 2007, I ran as a Democrat for County Freeholder (the legislative branch of NJ county government). My campaign focused on the need for the County to transition to renewable energy and raised awareness of the impact of climate change on the Cape May peninsula. My running mate and I received 44% of the vote in this highly Republican county.



In 2008, my family relocated to Newtown, Pennsylvania in what is now the First Congressional District, to be closer to my aging parents. I became involved with the Newtown Democratic Club, knocking on doors to help elect Democrats up and down the ballot starting with Barack Obama in 2008. I have been involved in local Democratic politics since. I was elected Vice Chair of the Newtown Democratic Club and served in that capacity for several years.

While working at Bucks County Community College, I co-chaired the college's Sustainability Team, whose mission is to find ways to reduce the college's carbon footprint. We successfully advocated for installing water bottle refilling stations to reduce the use of disposable plastic bottles, and for use of uniform recycling bins throughout the college's three campuses.

I have been endorsed by the American Federation of Teachers Local #2238, the union of educators at Bucks County Community College.

In 2013 I received training from former Vice President Gore to present The Climate Reality Project's slide show. I was designated a member of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps. I presented the slide show at Bucks County Community College several times, as well as for various community groups in other venues.

In 2014 I was appointed to the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council. I led efforts to pass resolutions against fracking in the Delaware River Basin and against construction of a hazardous waste incinerator in our Congressional District. The resolutions were passed unanimously by the Newtown Board of Supervisors, which then had a 3-2 Republican majority.

In 2014 I co-founded the Bucks County chapter of 350.org.

In 2016 I co-founded Bucks Environmental Action Coalition, a group including the Sierra Club, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 350.org, Citizens Climate Lobby, the Peace Center and other environmental and social justice organizations. The Coalition works to coordinate advocacy efforts in our County. (The Congressional district includes all of Bucks County, and part of Montgomery County). Among our many accomplishments are delaying implementation of fracking regulations in Newtown, Wrightstown and Upper Makefield Townships, organizing a "No Climate Deniers in the Cabinet" march and rally that attracted 175 people on a cold January night in 2017, and ongoing education and advocacy efforts, with a listserve, Facebook page and monthly meetings.

I have testified several times at hearings of the Delaware River Basin Commission, against fracking in the Delaware River Basin, against allowing pipelines to be constructed for the fossil fuel industry, and against any new fossil fuel infrastructure being constructed.

I support putting a price on carbon pollution, rapidly transitioning to 100% renewable energy, living wages, Medicare for All, gun safety legislation, and more. I have taken clear stands on

more than a dozen issues, which are spelled out on my website, <https://www.stevebacher.com/issue/> . I have been active in my community as an advocate for environmental and social justice for a decade, and have dedicated my life to public service in the nonprofit, government and higher education sectors. I would be grateful and proud to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club. Thank you for your consideration.