



# **Diana Lawrence**

## **For U.S. Congress Arkansas District 3**



### **Environmental Issues**

Talking about the environment covers a lot of topics, so this short document is very abridged. The really short answer is that I am an “environmental candidate” caring very much for all that this topic would cover.

My political upbringing began with environmental issues. My husband and I were active members of Sierra Club in Wisconsin. Sierra Club's mission is to get people out in nature, enjoy it, and want to protect it. One of the ways of protection is to get politically involved. I was also involved with the League of Conservation Voters in Wisconsin, which recruited its members and supporters to meet annually face-to-face with our elected officials state legislators, encouraging them to support specific conservation issues.

Sierra Club's website says, “The Sierra Club is the most enduring and influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. We amplify the power of our millions of members and supporters to defend everyone's right to a healthy world.” I saw that in action.

The Sierra Club's mission statement has three points, and I support them in my life and in the way I anticipate serving my district. (1) To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; (2) To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; (3) To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

It is my belief that a clean world, with abundant natural resources, is important to us and to our children and their children. With care and responsibility, I believe we can have that.

Part of this can be achieved by education. Part of this might be encouraged with public money. Part of this might be enforced with responsible regulations that help protect the rights of all of us.

I believe we need “wilderness” areas, whether they are true wilderness or something less, for our enjoyment and recreation and for the many intrinsic benefits these areas provide to us and to wildlife. When protection of these areas seems to conflict with mining, drilling, timbering, or other commercial opportunities, reasonableness should usually prevail. And, if it is valuable for mining today it will probably be even more valuable if conserved and available in the future.

Clean air, clean water, clean landscapes. Who would not want these? And, whether or not you hike, camp, boat, fish, hunt, or travel and vacation, isn't it nice to know that these opportunities exist for you and will exist for the next generations?

When the question is about energy, we all want inexpensive energy, because we all use energy, and nobody wants to pay more than necessary for it. I understand that, and it is true for me. But that doesn't necessarily mean we should use legacy forms of energy, primarily fossil fuel. Coal, oil, and gas have served us well, but alternatives are being developed and should be embraced when their harmful environmental consequences are diminished, and especially if it can be done economically. I will seek to bring better opportunities to you.

When the question is about Global Warming, and the consequences of Climate Change, I'll tell you that this is no longer a theory. It is a fact of science, and the consequences the world experiences with severe weather conditions partially demonstrate what can happen. Specific predictions of what might happen are based on what we currently understand, and these predictions sometimes fail to anticipate the time or the magnitude of the event. But I think we can safely anticipate that big changes are coming and that we will not like them.

I believe that it is no longer possible to avoid the consequences of Climate Change. This is because we (the entire world) failed to mitigate the growing Global Warming problem during the early decades, and our denial and delay has already purchased part of the problem and set Climate Change into action. Now we must figure out how to stop feeding the problem, and how best to live with the problem. It is a problem for all of us, and we all benefit when finding solutions.

*My issue documents are intended to evolve during the course of my campaign, so please notice the revision date at the bottom of the page. If you wish to comment, please let me know. If you have other issues for me to comment on, please let me know.*