**Gentry Alan Al Democratic Party State Representative 46**

EDUCATION. In an age dominated by complex science and technology, how can we ensure that students receive adequate STEM educations?

First, we must recruit and attract highly educated and skilled math and science teachers and they are valued. The recent lack of support for Kentucky’s teachers by the Governor and majority in the General Assembly damages morale and recruitment. Teachers must have the training and technology at their fingertips to push forward an advanced curriculum in STEM classes. Adequate physical space, laboratories and access to the latest development with respect to science is important for learning. Partnership with industry and technology services provides real world education and learning experiences.

· FOOD & WATER. How would you manage Kentucky’s agriculture, so it provides healthy and affordable food grown in an ethical and sustainable way? What should government do to ensure access to clean water? The University of Kentucky has a major focus on sustainable agriculture, working to develop new technologies with respect to farming in Kentucky. It is our job as legislators to properly fund our universities so that they can continue research in this area. Soil and water conservation are important for sustaining Kentucky’s farmlands which are critical to its economy.

· ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT: With nonrenewable resources on the decline in Kentucky, how do we create a sustainable Kentucky? What are your stances on: hydraulic fracturing, nuclear, and renewable energy sources? What are your views on climate change, and how would they affect your energy policies (if at all)? Kentucky must make transitioning to a sustainable energy economy a priority. Priorities are modernizing the grid, tax credits to encourage alternative energy companies to locate and grow in Kentucky and preparing for electric-powered transportation. Climate change is happening, and we are seeing the effects and as a result, our policies and spending should reflect initiatives to support green technologies, energy conservation and other aspects of reducing the carbon footprint.

· ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: How do you balance economic stability with environmental health and conservation? We have to think long-term in our policies and encourage clean energy and conservation through incentives, rather than penalties. I support an increase in funding for public health and safety.

· SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY. How will you foster a culture that respects scientific evidence and protects scientists? What role(s) specifically, if any, should government play in stimulating innovative science and technology so we continue to benefit from them?

Kentucky will benefit greatly from efforts to increase the scientific community. This is a high priority for us as our reputation has been damaged by national news headlines that paint Kentucky as a backwards state. Science and discovery has made extraordinary contributions towards the well-being of the citizens. We cannot allow political pressure to discard the value that science brings to the Commonwealth.