**Huizenga Jordan Republican Party State Representative 65**

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

Education is my passion. As the son of a teacher, the importance of a great education for every child and the need to support those who provide it are part of my DNA. I have dedicated my professional life to raising money to make a better life for children and have focused my volunteer time on mentoring students and serving organizations like Gateway Community and Technical College.

STEM education is critical and should be an integral part of the K-12 curriculum in Kentucky. I believe a great way to make progress in this area is to establish a competitive grant program to providing funding to schools with smart, measurable ideas – including those in the STEM area. I also believe Kentucky must be consistent in how it measures education outcomes, and then stick to the formula.

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?

My focus – personally, professionally and politically – is and has been to make a better life for the kids and families of our communities, in the 65th District and across the Commonwealth. While I don’t have specific answers as to how our agricultural assets should be managed, I can tell you that I will vote in accordance with my belief that affordable food and clean water are a basic need and a basic right for all Kentuckians, and that these assets should be managed in an ethical and sustainable way.

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)?

I believe the climate is indeed changing. I also believe sustainability is not only an environmental priority but a moral responsibility. Issues like climate change, nonrenewable and renewable energy, fracturing and the like cannot be viewed in silos. Kentucky needs to have a comprehensive plan to address its energy needs in the context not only of sustainability but economic development. Hemp is a great example (albeit not in the energy sense). Hemp is one of the most versatile plants on the planet, and Kentucky could be a major player in its production and export. It could be an economic savior to areas impacted by the reduction of coal and tobacco production. But the state is dragging its feet.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: How do you balance economic stability with environmental health and conservation?

I don’t believe they are mutually-exclusive. Granted, the manner is which Kentucky has managed its natural resources – especially coal – is a spotty one at best. But we have immense resources. As mentioned previously, hemp is a great example of a resource that addresses both economic and environmental needs. The state has been slow to identify the “next” in economic opportunities for our state. That next needs to take environmental health and conservation into account. They can both be accommodated.

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?

The best way to foster such a culture is by giving it a high profile and a high priority. We should publicly acknowledge the work of our great institutions like UK and U of L. We also need to explore ways to monetize the discoveries of our universities by creating innovation districts that draw private dollars into the mix. And as outlined previously, the state should establish a competitive grant program to providing funding to schools with smart, measurable ideas.