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Sangamon Valley Group of the Sierra Club Springfield Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Timothy J Davlin

Office Sought: Mayor City of Springfield

Last year, the city of Springfield reached a historic agreement with the Sierra Club for a clean energy plan to reduce pollution levels, purchase wind power, and increase investments in energy efficiency and conservation programs. Questions 1-3 relate to the agreement.

1) Part of the plan calls for increases in annual spending on energy efficiency and conservation programs. Will you support keeping Springfield's commitment to those efforts by maintaining the spending levels called for in the energy plan?

Yes

2) Will you support maintaining the City's commitment to purchase at least 120MW of wind power for Springfield, of which 60MW will be paid for by the State of Illinois?

Yes

3) As part of the agreement, CWLP will offer a green power program, where residents and businesses can choose to purchase some or all of their electricity from wind power and other renewable resources at a higher cost. Currently, this program does not require CWLP to acquire additional green power when customers participate in the program. Do you support allowing customers to pay for additional clean energy development (beyond the 120MW requirement) through this green power program?

Yes

4) Would you support using wells in the Sangamon River Valley as a secondary source to meet the city's future water needs, which would be a less expensive and more environmentally friendly alternative to building a second lake?

Long term city interest will have to be considered in any future plans of our water needs. We are currently looking at an option to Lake II.

5) What actions would you take to enhance the network of bicycle paths in Springfield?

As new construction continues like Koke Mill Road we will continue to enhance our network of bike paths.

6) What actions would you take to encourage development within Springfield's city center, and discourage sprawl?

The actions that I have taken, and will continue to pursue, are those that encourage and stimulate creative "infill" projects within the central area such as the recent openings of the Illinois Primary Health Care Association and Illinois Association of Realtors headquarters in downtown Springfield. Continued healthcare and association investment in the central area will complement this trend.

In both cases, one a long standing blighted property and the other, a surface parking lot, were brought into a more functional use and enhanced the appearance of downtown Springfield. I am working on other projects; for example, the Korean War Museum and Library that will further beautify and attract more investment and visitors.

In addition, we have assisted numerous central area façade renovations, upper story rehabilitation, and various redesign and reuse projects by means of our Central Area Tax Increment and Community Development Block grant programs.

With respect to discouraging urban sprawl, the MacArthur Boulevard extension will stimulate new development to the immediate south of Springfield and slow westward development. In addition, plans are being drawn to stimulate reinvestment in east side neighborhoods such as our South Town revitalization effort and attracting new business expansion and employment such as H.D. Smith in the Park South former Fiat-Allis.

All of these initiatives have resulted in the central city and have stimulated even more interest and investment in our urban core and lessened the need for community sprawl.

7) Many cities, including Normal Illinois, have adopted ordinances that promote sustainability, energy conservation and environmental concerns for buildings. Do you think Springfield should promote green building practices such as providing incentives for developers, or rewriting zoning, stormwater management, building, and other ordinances? If yes, what steps should Springfield take to implement these standards?

Yes, through our energy office.

8) Do you support the expansion of Springfield bus service into evening hours? Are there any other steps you would take to encourage increased use of public transportation?

Of course. Work with the Mass Transit District

9) Will you support the phasing-in of energy efficient and low pollution vehicles into the city's fleet?

Yes

10) Please add any comments you may have.