

March 7, 2021

Environment Committee at the CT General Assembly
Hartford, CT

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, and members of the Environment Committee:

I believe that it is very important that you support HB 6441 which provides municipalities with tools to fund climate adaptation and resilience projects, following the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

I especially support Section 3 of the bill which provides municipalities with an option to establish a buyer's conveyance fee to fund land stewardship, climate resilience, and other environmental projects in our community. Adoption of the program by towns is optional, and it costs the state nothing.

In Colchester, we could use these funds to support local projects. In fact, we are currently looking to amend the Town charter to allow Town funds to be allocated, as appropriate, to assist organizations and individuals interested in preserving open lands, which are one significant component of mitigating climate change. HB 6441 and Section 3 will enhance such efforts, and it is important that local governments have this tool as one more way to effect adaptation and resilience.

Please support HB 6441 and give our communities the opportunity to decide whether to establish this funding program.

Sincerely,
John Barnowski
Colchester Land Trust