



**TOWN OF STONINGTON
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
DANIELLE CHESEBROUGH
FIRST SELECTMAN**

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Testimony in support of HB 6441

March 4, 2021

Dear Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, and members of the Environmental Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share views in support of HB 6441, and for your ongoing public service to our State. I am Danielle Chesebrough, Stonington First Selectman.

HB 6441 offers municipalities with much needed tools to address both short- and long-term challenges linked with our changing climate. I appreciate that there are options for municipalities to choose from, such as the buyer's conveyance fee and stormwater authority. While our 169 municipalities across CT have much that unifies us, it can be very useful when legislation also recognizes we may need to tackle various local challenges with different tools. This bill allows for local input and uptake, and helps expand the currently limited options we have to address the wide range of problems facing our communities.

In particular, we appreciate how the Bill provides communities with improved options for directly addressing climate related projects, including the use of nature-based and green infrastructure solutions. By building upon the Connecticut Green Bank's successes in financing clean energy investments, to also including areas such as water, waste, climate adaptation, agriculture, and land conservation, we will be able to better attract private and federal investments to Connecticut.

We are also very much in favor of giving municipalities the authority to create municipal stormwater authorities statewide, which will help us further address MS4 requirements and reduce stormwater pollution and flooding.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Danielle Chesebrough