

**"Environment Committee Testimony, HB 6441, and 3/8"**

03/08/2021 – Testimony by Claudio Denoya in Support of

Distinguished State Senator Cohen, Representative Borer, and members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Claudio Denoya. I am a resident of Old Lyme, CT for the last 25 years, a PhD and Research Advisor, and a member of the Open Space Commission of the Town of Old Lyme. I am an advocate of people with disabilities and a supporter of nature conservation. I am a Long-time member and supporter of Special Olympics, Sarah Inc., The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Jane Goodall Institute, Audubon, Save the Sound, National Wildlife Federation, World Wildlife Foundation, National Parks Conservation, The Trust for Public Land and Old Lyme Land Trust. Most importantly, I speak on behalf of my daughter Mariana, who is 43 years old and has multiple mental and physical disabilities. Mariana enjoys the outdoors and particularly places that have trails and roads accessible for people with physical disabilities.

It is my strong belief that land conservation represent our best values as human beings and the pillars of our beloved country for generations to come. At the level of society, open spaces offer necessary space for the survival of wildlife and recreation places for all our constituents contributing to an exceptional example of social justice, and equality, which in term enhance the image, and recognition of our State as one of the best in the Nation.

Based on the precedent, I respectfully request 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.

In my town of Old Lyme, we could use these funds to support local projects including Increase of Open Spaces, Wildlife protection, combating invasive species, and Increase the number of trails and specially those accessible to people with disabilities.

Please support HB 6441 and give our community the opportunity to apply this funding to programs dedicated to nature conservation.

Thanks for your attention,

*Claudio D Denoya*

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