

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of HB 6441 because I am a member of the Middletown Commission on Conservation and Agriculture and recently finished a several-year's stint on the Steering Committee for the Middletown Plan of Conservation and Development. In both these roles, I have seen the difficulties that municipalities experience raising funding for land purchases and stewardship. While Middletown has passed a number of bonds for the purchase of open space, funding for stewardship is always imperiled by competing needs from public transportation, the public school system, and the many other services that are essential in a small city.

Middletown has the highest number of people living in poverty and the highest number of minority residents of all the towns in Middlesex County. Because of the burden this places on our tax system, it is difficult for our city to create a source of revenue for addressing sustainability and climate change issues. Please pass HB 6441 to help our city contribute to the state's goals of saving open space and improving climate resilience.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Holder

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