

[organizational letterhead, if applicable]

March 4, 2021

Dear Environment Committee,

I write in support of HB 6441, the Governor's Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation, which includes several proposals which provide municipalities with funding tools to better respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Section 3 of the bill enables a Municipal Funding Option, which gives communities the opportunity to establish a limited buyer's conveyance fee program to generate revenue for land stewardship, climate adaptation, resilience, and other local environmental projects including urban forestry, invasive species control, and tree planting.

Many municipalities, including Middletown, need a sustainable source of funding to address climate change and for local conservation and stewardship efforts. We have seen invasive plants take over our forests and farmlands as the climate warms, and urban trees die due to pests and drought exacerbated by climate change.

Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island all allow some municipalities to do as outlined in this bill, with the income helping to conserve and maintain open spaces. Experiences in these and other states with municipal funding options have shown to be a boost to communities, as they have cleaner air and water and protected natural beauty, and can increase property values (Gies, *Conservation: An Investment that Pays*, 2009).

I ask the committee to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer G. Kleindienst".

Jennifer G. Kleindienst  
241 West St.  
Middletown, CT