



**Testimony of Save the Sound
Before the Committee on the Environment**

In support of HB 6441

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

**Submitted by Bill Lucey, Long Island Soundkeeper.
March 7, 2021**

Save the Sound is a nonprofit organization representing over 4,200 member households and 10,000 activists statewide. Our mission is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and the entire Long Island Sound region. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring citizens together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko, Vice-Chairs Senator Slap and Representative Palm, Ranking Members Senator Miner and Representative Harding, and the dedicated members of the Environment Committee:

On behalf of Save the Sound, I would like to thank the committee for hearing HB 6441 which outlines several options for municipalities to address the increasing costs from climate change.

We support HB 6441 in its entirety and are pleased to see several of the GC3 recommendations surface in this bill. Of particular interest is Section 1 that provides enabling language for CT Municipalities to form stormwater authorities. Combined with the extra clarifying language provided in HB 6497 defining municipalities, this language will allow towns the ability to fund long-term solutions to the increasing challenges of stormwater property destruction and pollution. We also support the municipal option for establishing a conveyance fee. These fees have long been proven effective elsewhere to preserve farmland and publicly accessible open space. We also support enhanced municipal investment options and Green Bank options for tools to support funding climate mitigation projects.

Expanding the number of adaptation tools that all CT municipalities can use, allows each town to customize its own strategy on how to best meet the challenges of climatic changes. This is the true essence of home-rule as each town will face unique problems at different scales. Recognizing and empowering both the local knowledge and priorities of the citizenry is essential to the long-term success of our adaptation to rapid change which is what this bill does.

Respectfully submitted,

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