

Senator Christine Cohen, Chairman
Representative Dorinda Borer
Environment Committee
Connecticut State Legislature
March 7, 2021

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

Please 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.

For me, an especially significant part of the bill is Section 3 of the bill because it 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 Simsbury, were the town to adopt this program, we could use these funds to support local projects including invasive plant management and habitat improvement on town owned property along the Farmington River. A number of particularly noxious invasives are growing there, including mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and oriental bittersweet. These are detrimental to the trees that are food sources for native wildlife, including native insects and their caterpillars that are essential food for baby birds. Replacing the many dead trees on this town property with young natives and protecting them from deer browse would not only help provide for birds, but would help keep the river water cool and clean.

Because Section 3 of the bill offers a program in which the town could choose to participate, it puts no requirement on any towns: it is a program in which a town could choose to participate or not, and also, it costs the state nothing.

Please support HB 6441 and give our community the opportunity to decide whether to establish this funding program.

Sincerely,



Sally S. Rieger
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