

March 4, 2021

In support of HB 6441: An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I am in full support of HB 6441, An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation.

Many communities in our state just do not have the funds to buy and preserve land. They do not have the funds to properly steward such land by planting trees, removing invasive species, correcting erosion or etc. They lack the means to plan for or implement projects for climate resilience.

This bill, if enacted, provides a source for funding that does not affect the municipal mill rate or require local bonding. Nearby states have enacted similar fees that have been successful, resulting in the protection of thousands of acres of open space, forests, meadows, and farms while also increasing property values for town residents.

The Municipal Funding Option will provide Connecticut towns with an opportunity to replicate those successes in their own communities.

It sounds like a win-win to me.

I am also in favor of the other proposals in the bill, including municipal storm-water authorities.

Thank you.

Karen Schnitzer
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