

Testimony
HOUSE BILL 6441

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

March 8, 2021

Senator Cohen, Representative Gresko, Senator Miner, Representative Harding and Members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Jessie Stratton. I live in Groton, Connecticut and am a member of the town's Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force (GRSTF). I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 6441 that would provide Connecticut municipalities with new tools to support their efforts to lessen and/or adapt to the impacts of climate change on their communities.

A week ago the Groton Town Council adopted a "RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY AS A CENTRAL MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLE FOR ALL ACTIONS OF TOEN GOVERNMENT" demonstrating their understanding of the critical need to at and adapt to actively pursue ways to combat and adapt to climate impacts and to lessen future impacts by lowering the town's contributions to climate change. I have attached a copy of that resolution to my testimony.

For Groton, and other jurisdictions trying address these issues, the biggest challenge is that the resources now available are woefully inadequate to meet the challenge. While the provisions of this bill don't constitute magic bullets, they do offer realistic avenues for municipalities to pursue if they are serious about garnering the resources needed to make their communities more resilient. Importantly, they also enable them to raise matching funds to leverage federal funds that are currently available and that are likely to dramatically increase in the not too distant future.

In addition to allowing jurisdictions to create storm water authorities, institute a buyer's conveyance fee, specifically embracing flood prevention and climate residence to the purview of flood and erosion

control boards, creation of an Environmental Infrastructure Fund within the Green Bank is particularly welcome as it can bring the successes of its existing work to resilience investments.

In sum, I strongly support the provisions of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support to passage of HB 6441.

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