

To: Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Cohen and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Miner and Rep. Harding, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Eluned Li, Sunrise NHv Organizer

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 6441 that will fund climate adaptation and resilience projects.

The outcomes of this bill could only be positive. The program would be adopted at the discretion of independent municipalities, with no disruption to non-participating towns. This bill would give much-needed support to communities looking to regenerate their land and improve climate resilience, saving money for poorly planned brownfield projects, and saving the state money long-term from recovery expenses later down the line. Passing this bill can only help us move forward as a state.

I have a lot of concerns about my community and its coming battle with sea level rise. Coastal neighborhoods, particularly low-income areas must be protected, as dense urban areas are unprepared for changes to come, and a lot is at stake. Lives would be lost, disabled members of the community would be uniquely affected, and each municipality would have its specific challenges to address. Localizing these efforts would help prevent waste of state funding. This bill would enable coastal districts to focus our resources where they would be most needed to effectively address the issues of flooding and erosion.

I must urge the committee to support HB 6441 to support addressing issues of localized environmental needs. Thank you for your time.