

March 5, 2001

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

First, I'd like to introduce myself. For the past 20 years, I have helped to build strong land conservation organizations throughout Connecticut. I was a founding board member of the Colchester Land Trust, a recently retired Vice Chairman of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council and worked for the Avalonia Land Conservancy as Director of Development and Programs. Conserving land is planning for the future and land conservation is local.

I'm writing to ask that you 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.

I especially support Section 3 of the bill which 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 Groton, we could use these funds to support local projects including protection against sea level rise and aquifer protection.

Adoption of the program by towns is optional, and it costs the state nothing.

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

Sincerely,



Charles Toal
19 Ward Ave.
Groton, CT 06340
860-961-0255