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March 8, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 6441, The Governor's Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation.

HB 6441 provides municipalities with tools to fund climate adaptation and resilience projects, following the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is a nonprofit, regional conservation organization working with the communities of Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties to safeguard natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources forever. Founded in 1965, NCLC is the largest land trust in Connecticut, protecting 12,500 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas. NCLC's conserved lands include 21 public hiking preserves, 40 working farms, and over 3,000 acres of habitat for rare and endangered species.

As a land trust, NCLC especially supports 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 the communities we serve.

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

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Branson  
Director of Operations and Finance

