

7 March 2021

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

I'm writing to ask that you support HB 6441 which provides municipalities with the tools to fund climate adaption and resilience projects, following the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

In particular, I 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 communities.

I work as a realtor in Greater New Haven and the Shoreline. When a buyer looks at a house, I always tell them about that town's trails and open spaces, community gardens and farmer's markets. I've found such amenities to be a strong selling point for new buyers who want to live in a community that values outdoor recreational opportunities such spaces offer, as well as sources for locally grown food. I also provide information, if I know it, about the town's commitment to a long term, sustainable environment. For example, Guilford and Branford are currently trying to address flooding concerns along CT's scenic and historic Rt. 146. Branford has established a coastal resiliency fund to help prepare for future environmental impacts. Buyers welcome such information about their future home town, information which might also increase their awareness of our fragile ecosystem.

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

Sincerely,

Marleen Cenotti  
21 Helen Rd., Branford