

**Kathleen Demers
48 Mason Road
Willington, CT 06279**

3/5/2021

RE: Please Raise HB 6441 “An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation”

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

I urge you to 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. Adoption of the program by towns is optional, and it costs the state nothing.

Having these funds could enable my town of Willington to fulfill match requirements for community foundation, State or federal grant programs and cover the costly expenses associated with acquiring land and/or easements (appraisals, surveys, environmental assessments, closing costs, etc.). It could also assist our Town to better manage our public open spaces and forests as well as to establish a community garden.

Like so many CT towns, Willington is feeling severely constrained by State budget cuts and looking for more creative options to fund open space land acquisition and maintenance projects that protect our natural resources and enhance the quality of life for our residents. If approved through the municipal legislative process, this program could provide Willington with a source of sustainable funding for local conservation and stewardship efforts without adversely impacting our municipal mill rate or bonding rates.

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

Sincerely

Kathleen Demers