

*Dear Senator Daugherty Abrams, Representative Linehan, and members of the Environment Committee,*

*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 Cheshire, we could use these funds to support local projects including:*

*What has become abundantly clear during this pandemic is the need for public open spaces. During the past year, if you were to visit any of our local parks and open spaces you would have seen an influx of people enjoying these outdoor spaces. This high usage exemplifies the need to maintain our parks and outdoor areas as well as the need for more parcels of land to be set aside for public use and preservation.*

*These funds would be used to maintain existing public and preserved areas by removing highly invasive and disruptive species such as: Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Winged burning bush (*Alantus eunuemus*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). These invasive species not only make our natural spaces look unappealing but also strangle and overwhelm native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. By disrupting the ecologically balanced native species, our natural areas are less effective at removing greenhouse gases from our atmosphere. The destruction of these invasive species can clearly be seen in disturbed areas along roadsides and penetrating our open spaces.*

*Proper maintenance of our parks and natural spaces requires tools (e.g. loppers, weed wrench, saws), funds for native plants to replace invasive plants, and funds to initiate long-term programs.*

*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,*

*Timothy P. Gervais, Cheshire Land Trust.*