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480 Hamburg Road  
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Sunday, March 7, 2021

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

**As Open Space Coordinator of the Town of Lyme, I am writing to express my support for House Bill 6441:** which follows the Governor's Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation and includes several proposals which provide municipalities with tools to promote resiliency and fund responses to climate change.

**I strongly support Section 3 of the bill enables a Municipal Funding Option** which gives communities the opportunity to establish, if they choose, a limited Buyer's Conveyance Fee on real estate to generate revenue for climate resilience and other local environmental projects. The fees may be used for land conservation and stewardship; climate resilience projects; urban forestry, planting of trees and other environmental projects; matching of Community Investment Act (CIA) funded programs (including for affordable housing) and other state and federal grants; and repayment of municipal bonds obtained for any of these purposes

The Town of Lyme 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development, based upon a survey of all the citizens of Lyme, demonstrates the commitment of the citizens to the preservation of our natural resources. Funds from the program will go to preserving and stewarding open space in a strategic manner to create large blocks of open space, which mitigates the effects of climate change by sequestering the excess carbon in the air. The open space that is preserved in Lyme also contributes to providing clean air and filtering water for all of Connecticut. Funds would also go to stewardship and improvement of the land to provide resiliency to the human and wildlife population.

With State budget cuts, Lyme is looking for more creative options to fund land use projects that enhance our local economy and the quality of life for our residents. Lyme has been fortunate to have been granted open space funding through State grants. In the future, HB 6441, if approved, would enable the Town to raise matching funds for grants and to purchase and steward properties without raising the mill rate or borrowing money.

Please support HB 6441. Thank you for your consideration.

Wendolyn Hill  
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