



Date: March 7, 2021

To: CGA Environment Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko
and members of the Environment Committee

From: JoAnn Messina, Executive Director, Greenwich Tree Conservancy
(greenwichtreeconservancy@gmail.com)

RE: Support for HB 6441 AAC Climate Change Adaptation

[The Greenwich Tree Conservancy](#) (GTC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was founded in January, 2007 because of a shared concern that there is insufficient recognition of the importance of urban trees in enhancing our community, our health, our ecosystems and our quality of life.

On behalf of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, we urge your support for HB 6441 An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation. This legislation provides new funding mechanisms and tools to better position Connecticut for the worsening effects of climate change. **Section 3 specifically would allow - but not require - towns and cities to institute a conveyance fee paid by buyers of real property to establish a dedicated fund for climate resilience and adaptation projects.**

Particularly during this pandemic, municipal leaders with constrained budgets are looking for funding options for projects that enhance our ability to withstand the increasing severity of climate change impacts, as well as help our local economy and the quality of life for our residents. The Greenwich Tree Conservancy participates in a very successful private/public partnership with the Town of Greenwich. We have planted close to 5000 trees in our town in the 14 years since our founding. If passed, this legislation would enable Greenwich to consider an additional source of funding to continue to protect, preserve, and enhance our urban forest.

We urge your support for HB 6441 to enable municipalities the option to consider whether this ongoing funding mechanism would meet their needs.

Please support HB 6441.

Thank you for your consideration.