



NORTH BRANFORD LAND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.
P.O. Box 378 • North Branford, CT 06471-0378

3/6/21

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

I am writing to ask that you support HB 6441. This bill will provide towns like North Branford the ability to fund climate change and resilience projects.

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 our rural community, there are many ongoing and future projects that would benefit from such a fee. And several have impacts well beyond our town's borders. The most prominent being the protection and maintenance of the Farm River. It's polluted. For many years, protecting this rivers water quality has been a challenge. Its 16,000+ acre watershed lies in 7 communities. The river is a drinking water supply for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and a wildlife habitat to thousands of nature's creatures including fish who swim up it from Long Island Sound to spawn. Here is a chance to provide a source of much needed funding to maintain and improve its water quality. This is just one example of how money from this program could be used in our town and surrounding towns.

Further, adopting this bill wouldn't cost the state a dime *and* as an optional program, towns would not be obligated to participate if they choose not to do so.

So, with nothing to lose and a lot for local communities to gain, I ask you to please support HB 6441. It's only through your leadership that towns would have the ability to open this door!

Sincerely,
David Sargent, President
North Branford Land Conservation Trust, Inc.

