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Co-chairs Cohen and Borer, Vice-Chairs Slap and Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and other distinguished members of the Environment Committee.

On behalf of the Connecticut Green Building Council (CTGBC) Board of Directors, we write today to express our strong support for HB-6441 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

The CTGBC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and a chapter of the US Green Building Council (USGBC). We are committed to accelerating a healthy, equitable, **resilient**, and sustainable transformation of Connecticut's built environment. Our membership includes developers, architects, engineers, consultants, building operators, builders and contractors, product manufacturers, public officials, and more. Several of our members volunteered to participate in the GC3 Working Groups to help Connecticut be a leader in developing policies and legislative actions that can reduce the negative impacts of climate change on our citizens.

Our members are experts in the built environment who understand the science of climate change, its sources, and its negative impacts. We believe it is urgently critical for municipalities, the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut Green Bank to *proactively* invest, fund and finance climate adaptation plans and projects in Connecticut in addition to significantly reducing source emissions of greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels in transportation, generation of electricity, building heating and cooling. We also educate and advocate for reducing embedded carbon from greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacture of building materials like cement and increasing the safe sequestration of carbon dioxide, so it is not released to the atmosphere.

Our support for this bill is summarized below:

1. We commend the inclusion of equity and environmental justice as a core guiding priority in the bill. We appreciate that it reflects the guidance from the GC3 Working Groups. Equity must remain a key funding priority to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Vulnerable populations are more likely to experience the negative impacts of extreme heat and flooding associated with climate change. Without adequate financial resources or enough flood or health insurance to recover quickly from extreme weather incidents, these underserved communities are at greater risk of experiencing detrimental impacts to their economic and personal health.
2. The proposed funding programs in the bill for municipalities and the Connecticut Green Bank will enable plans to set priority projects and advance these projects as well as to create sustainable sources of funding for municipalities and not-for-profit corporations to leverage the matching fund requirements of federal, state and philanthropic grants.
3. Federal funding for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant may grow significantly, as reported by the New York Times on January 25, 2021, to \$3.7 billion nationally. Connecticut municipalities need to be able to fund up to 25% of the total grant value and compete for these BRIC grants, which we are eligible to apply for over the next several years. This bill enables municipalities to raise the matching funds from stormwater utility fees and real estate conveyance fees or via the Connecticut Green Bank's Environmental Infrastructure Fund.

4. New London is the only community in Connecticut with a stormwater utility fee. This bill will enable more communities in Connecticut to catch up to the 1807 communities in the rest of the country reported in the 2020 Survey by Western Kentucky University to fund flood protection and nature-based and green infrastructure solutions from the more frequent and intense rain predicted for our climate. The [Western Kentucky University Stormwater Utility Survey 2020](#) indicates that, "The smallest community with a stormwater utility that we have found is Indian Creek Village, Florida with a 2010 census population of 88 (no, this is not a misprint). The largest community is Los Angeles with a population of almost 4,000,000. The average SWU community population is 66,153 and the median is 18,217. These numbers are almost certainly too large because it is difficult to find stormwater utilities in small communities. The bottom line is that no community is too small nor too large to have a stormwater utility."
5. We support the buyer's conveyance fee to fund climate adaptation and resilience because the fee could be structured to create economic incentives to transition away from burning fuel oil and natural gas for heating and cooling these buildings. A property's market value is directly related to the wealth of the buyer so we recommend excluding low value properties from the conveyance fee and including an exclusion for net zero energy (i.e. net zero greenhouse gas emissions) buildings from the conveyance fee to create an incentive to build and retrofit buildings to perform with net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

In consideration for the countless hours of over 230 members of the GC3 Working Groups in 2020 to recommend the need for the climate adaptation funding programs in this legislation, we urge swift action in support of HB 6441 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

Respectfully submitted,



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Board Member, CT Green Building Council
Co-chair, Advocacy Committee



Wayne Cobleigh, CPSM
Chair Finance Committee, CT Green Building Council
Member, Advocacy Committee

P.S. All legislators are welcome to learn more about CTGBC's advocacy at www.ctgbc.org and the climate actions needed now at www.nessbe.net .