

**E. Zell Steever
Groton, Connecticut**

**Statement
March 8, 2021**

Co-Chairs Senators Cohen and Representative Gresko, Vice Chairs Senator Slap and Representative Palm, Ranking Members Senator Miner and Representative Harding, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

My name is Zell Steever and I am Chairman of the Groton Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force for the Town of Groton, Connecticut. I am offering written in support of:

***HOUSE BILL 6441 - AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION***

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 6441. We believe that House Bill 6441 will benefit our towns and cities in Connecticut by providing new authorities and innovative tools to organize and to fund climate adaptation and resiliency activities across Connecticut. This bill responds to the emerging impacts of climate change already affecting our health, welfare and safety in our local communities. The impacts of climate change will only become more severe affecting our economic, social and quality of life in the future unless action is take now.

Section 3 of the bill gives local communities the option to establish a buyer's conveyance fee to fund a number of activities centered around climate resiliency, protecting land and for other local environmental projects such as conserving open space and for matching state and federally funded grants and other opportunities.

The legislation provides local communities the option to participate at no cost to Connecticut. Towns and cities can also choose what works best for them and their residents. The bill does not impact municipal mill rates or require local bonding.

The bill establishes the opportunity for towns and cities to create long-term sustainable funding stream to help manage the impact of climate change and to protect our air, water and land resources for future generations.

To be clear, this bill is just a start in what will be ultimately needed in Connecticut and in our local communities to effectively manage the impacts of climate change. This bill addresses climate adaptation by making our communities more resilient. This bill would also benefit by addressing climate mitigation: ways to reduce green house gas emissions, energy efficiency and conservation activities in our local municipalities. To be effective, both adaptation and mitigation must be considered together. Ultimately, for local communities to be successful in responding to climate change, they will need to develop a vision, establish capacity and have resources available to be effective. Confronting climate change will be challenging, as it will require the federal, state and local cooperation, leadership and long-term commitment.

I urge you to **support HB 6441** and authorize local communities to choose the tools and processes best suited to meet local needs and opportunities.

I would be delighted to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Zell Steever
Chairman, Groton Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force