

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

I'm writing to ask that you support HB 6441 which provides municipalities with tools to fund climate adaptation and resilience projects, following the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

I am writing as an individual, concerned citizen in the town of Stonington, as well as an active and engaged member of Avalonia Land Conservancy, town chair for Stonington. We are acutely aware of the effects of climate change and in our coastal town we are constantly reminded and affected by sea level rise.

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 my town, we could use these funds to support local projects . Our Climate Change Task Force has provided opportunities for professional planning to adapt to sea level rise, and funding would be essential to be able to enact any of those plans. As a Land Conservancy organization, we are actively looking at the best way to make our forests more resilient, to think of the best ways to protect our habitats and the wildlife that makes them home. We need to think of land conservation along the shore line to provide places for marshlands and buffers to migrate inland as they are destroyed by rising water. Adoption of the program by towns is optional, and it costs the state nothing.

Please support HB 6441 and give our community the opportunity to decide whether to establish this funding program.

Sincerely,

Beth Sullivan,
Avalonia Land Conservancy
Stonington CT