

Dear Co-Chairs Christine Cohen and Joseph Gresko, Vice-Chairs Christine Palm and Derek Slap, Ranking Members Craig Miner and Stephen Harding, and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Anna Word, and I am a resident of New Haven. I am writing this statement to show my strong support for HB 6441, An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation. This bill will fund climate adaptation and resilience projects, the need for which is already great and will only increase as climate change progresses.

As a young person and a scientist, I know that climate change is the most urgent threat to our well-being that we face. The warming of our earth affects every facet of our lives from the quality of the air we breathe and our ability to grow food to feed ourselves to the frequency and severity of illness and infectious diseases such as we continue to see through the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline communities like New Haven and our surrounding towns as well as communities all across the state are facing and will continue to face increasingly difficult hardships caused by climate change, and we need the ability to enact solutions to these problems and adapt to our rapidly changing world.

HB 6441 would not only allow Connecticut communities to have the funding for environmental projects like conserving open space and combatting invasive species in lakes, the structure of this funding would ensure that communities like mine across the state will have a long-term, sustainable funding source for these important projects.

Additionally, the challenges each community faces will not be identical, and solutions to the problems caused by climate change must be tailored to each locality's specific needs. Because HB 6441 allows each municipality to choose what projects most benefit their own residents, this bill provides the flexibility our state will need to survive the climate crisis, and many towns have already asked for this.

I urge you to support HB 6441 and give municipalities the freedom to choose the financial tools that are best suited to their local environmental needs. Passage of this bill will ultimately benefit our entire state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Anna Word
New Haven, CT 06511