

MIA

Good evening, members of the committee. My name is Mia He and I am a sophomore at Barrington High School. I am here to support the H7022 Act on Coasts. As a citizen of a state that will be underwater by 2035, I firmly believe that we should pass the Act on Coasts. We can see, even now, that our state is slowly getting submerged because of rising sea levels. If we have a coastal resilience plan, it will most definitely help our current situation. It will also provide a sense of security for coastal landowners. Coastal Resilience can no longer be marked as inconsequential. We must take action now so we will be fully prepared both now, and in the future.

I am also a distance runner on the Barrington High School track team. Everywhere we run there is ocean. High sea levels can pose many safety risks to runners like how flood water can contain pollutants, sewage, and harmful bacteria all of which can have many health risks. Rising sea levels along with other environmental factors can also lead to the loss of coastal ecosystems and landscapes which are very enjoyable for people that like to spend time outside. If they instead go outside and see the ocean on their doorstep, personally, I would not be very happy.

If this act was not passed, people who live in my town of Barrington which is surrounded by water, and really all of RI will have to move out. And moving takes a lot of energy, time, and money. Instead we should focus on preventing that from happening. I will be graduating in 2 years but I am not just concerned for me. I am concerned about my family, my friends, our community, and our future generations who will have to deal with the brunt of these rising sea levels. I want to secure a safe and secure place that our future generations can call home. Thank you.