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From: Jane Miller <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:45 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support Shoreline Access Bills H-7645/S-2641, H-7750/S-2634, H-7376/S-2185

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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RI House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support this package of shoreline access bills. This topic is very important to me - the ocean, shore, and nature is a public resource for the benefit of all, and these simple steps should be taken to promote access to balance the rights of property owners and the public.

(2024-S 2641, 2024-H 7645) would require a municipality, when abandoning a road, to vote on whether or not to preserve an easement for walking or other types of recreation. Under current Rhode Island law the only option for a municipality that does not wish to maintain a road is to abandon it totally to the abutting private property owners.

(2024-S 2634, 2024-H 7750) would allow CRMC to protect historical footpaths used for shoreline access through official designation.

(2024-S 2185, 2024-H 7376) would educate new buyers of oceanfront property on Rhode Island shoreline access law and require disclosure of any permits or conditions of public access tied to the property, in order to avoid surprises that might come up. A recent dispute over public access of a seawall shows that this disclosure is currently lacking.

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