

Dear House Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members:

My husband (Walter A Brown) and I are both in support of House Bill H 7060, introduced by Representative John Edwards. This bill restricts commercial development and preserves the Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area (Seapowet) and contiguous waters in Sapowet Cove for recreational use.

The waters around Seapowet are designated as Natural Heritage Areas within Rhode Island's Wildlife Action Plan. As Rep. Edwards stated "The original reason the area was purchased was to preserve this critical marsh area to keep it free of commercial and residential development, and to allow continued public access for hunting, fishing, shellfishing, and general recreation for future generations..."

This legislation will spell out in law that the management area is for recreation purposes only - not commercial development. We need to uphold Rhode Island's Public Trust Doctrine and preserve public waters like Seapowet.

Sincerely,

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