

Dear House Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members,

I am for bill H 7060. I am a Tiverton resident and grew up at my family's property on 723 Seapowet Ave., where my father, Arthur Metcalf, 98 yrs. old currently resides. The site of the proposed commercial oyster farm is directly in front of my family's home.

Over the years, our family, neighbors, and friends have enjoyed the Seapowet cove in a variety of ways: shellfishing, swimming, windsurfing, boating, etc., as well as wading in the shallow waters with nieces, nephews, and our grandchildren, pointing various species of marine life and explaining the delicate aquatic ecosystem of the cove.

We have also enjoyed sitting at the shore and watching the numerous people who access Seapowet Point on a daily basis, wading into the waters, exploring the sandbars and the shoreline near our home, as well as shellfishing, fly fishing, kayaking and canoeing. It is a heavily used recreational area and perhaps the most vital geographical asset of our town.

I am in support of bill H 7060. It reminds our legislature and governing bodies that the Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area was established in 1956, with federal funds, to preserve the area's open spaces and critical habitat for hunting, fishing, scenic, and recreational use. This designation protects public access to the Seapowet Cove and surrounding waterways.

It is critical that our state legislature protect one of Rhode Island's most valuable ecosystems where sensitive wildlife habitat and recreational use are being threatened by increased pressure from commercial development.

Thank you for your leadership and support,

Diane Sanna

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