

Dear House Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members,

I am for bill H 7060. I, along with my late husband, have enjoyed bringing our children and grandchildren to this beautiful area for years. Letting the children wade in the water, have a picnic and go for walks. Sometimes it was just to sit, read a book and enjoy the scenic beauty. It is personal to me that this fragile area is preserved and valued for its open space, sensitive ecosystem, scenic vistas, and recreational use Sapowet provides for the public. The Sapowet Marsh Wildlife Management Area was established in 1956, using federal funds, to preserve the area's open spaces and critical habitat for hunting, fishing, scenic, and recreational use. We need the state legislature to 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.

This bill is a legislative solution to uphold Rhode Island's Public Trust Doctrine and preserve public waters like Seapowet

Thank you,

Donna J Cook