



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road, Room 116
Wakefield, R.I. 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370
Fax: (401) 783-3767

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 7060 – An Act Relating To Parks And Recreational Areas -- General Provisions

Dear Chair Casey:

I write today to provide this letter of concern regarding the proposed revisions to R.I.G.L §§ 32-1-5.2. “Sapowet Marsh Management Area -- Prohibition of development.” The area that would be affected by this proposal has an active Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Contested application currently under review by the Governor’s recently appointed Hearing Officer to the CRMC. Should this bill become law it would effectively usurp the agency’s evidentiary hearing process and vetting of evidence that the Governor expected when he appointed a Hearing Officer to the CRMC for matters such as this.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of concern.

I appreciate the Committee’s consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

/lat

cc: Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
CRMC Members