

Dear House Municipal Government and Housing Committee Members,

I am writing to you to support bill H 7060. I was one of the first people who discovered that there was a proposal for a one acre aquaculture lease at Seapowet. It was a cold winter night in 2020 when I attended and objected to this lease on the grounds clearly defined in the CRMC Redbook regarding scenic and recreational use. At the time, I was shocked to learn that many other Rhode Islanders were not aware of the proposal.

Historically, once a one acre lease is granted, within a year the lease is modified to expand up to and beyond six acres. In addition to this fact, aquaculture leases are never returned to a natural wildlife state. These areas are lost to the voting and taxpayers of Rhode Island forever.

The fact that this area was also deemed a management area in 1956 through federal funds is yet one more reason that this area needs to be preserved from private industry.

We must pass this bill.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Phil Capaldi
15 Baneberry Trail
Saunderstown, RI 02874
401-413-3336