

To the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing, Rep. Edwards,  
Rep. Cortvriend, Rep. Bennett, Rep. Abney, and Rep. Kennedy:

As a resident of Tiverton RI for the past 25 years I would like to express my strong opposition to Bill H-7060 in its current form. I feel genuinely blessed to live in this extraordinary environment rich with the beauty and wonder of the natural world. My children and grandchildren have learned to value their time here and we all hope that it will retain its magic for generations to come.

While I support the concept of protecting the "Sapowet" area of Tiverton, I believe H-7060 does not go far enough, geographically, to be effective. Additionally, H-7060, if passed into law, appears to have the unwanted effect of amplifying commercialization pressures to the north of Sapowet Point by excluding the cove area located south of the Point from commercial use. As written, H-7060 would create a "non-commercial zone" south of Sapowet Point, while **creating a de facto "commercial zone"** north of the Point, leaving the landowners to the north highly prone to commercial development.

H-7060 appears to **offer approximately 17 landowners south of Sapowet Point extraordinary protection** from commercial use of public trust waters and submerged lands, while offering **zero protection for the approximately 8 landowners to the north, including Audubon's Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge**. It is my strong belief that the entire area north and south of **Sapowet Marsh is unique and worth protecting and preserving** in its current and natural state.

I urge you to consider the following language as an alternative to the area description in the currently proposed legislation. This language would create one class of landowner, the protected, while further preserving an area deemed by the State of RI, the Audubon Society of RI, and the Town of Tiverton, as being one of the most unspoiled and beautiful places in Rhode Island:

**"... within 2000' of any lands which comprise the Sapowet Wildlife Management Area and Emilie Ruecker Wildlife Refuge."**

Thank you for your consideration to see that all of the landowners in this community are treated equally.

Sincerely

Richard Fishman

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