

I am in favor of H 7060.

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> The CRMC has lost its way. Mixing a commercial enterprise with public recreational activities is wrong, especially in an area that was set aside exclusively for conservation and recreation. Please pass this bill to protect Rhode Islanders' unrestricted use of Sapowet Marsh and Fishing area. This is one of the only free recreational areas open to the public and the only state beach in the East Bay Area.

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> The CRMC should be guiding oyster farms to areas that are suited for commercial enterprise. Its own guidelines specify this but they have not been willing to follow the guidelines protecting kayakers, fishermen and waders who use this area regularly. The CRMC requests guidance from the local town. In this case the Tiverton Town Council, Harbor Commission and Conservation Commission have all stated that an oyster farm does not belong at Sapowet. But the CRMC voted to approve the farm, anyway.

> The legislature needs to correct CRMC bias favoring aquaculture over Rhode Island residents. It makes no sense for the state to put money into a "protected area" then have a government agency destroy it. There are many areas that are more appropriate for farming, particularly an oyster farm that offers only part time employment for two Little Compton hobbyists who work full time in Massachusetts. Little Compton Town Council has expressed their approval of the farm. Little Compton should offer the Bowens an appropriate location off their shores.

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> The State of Rhode Island has a duty to hold submerged land as a public trust. Please stand with the residents of Rhode Island and preserve Sapowet Marsh. Please pass H-7060.

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> Russell and Mary Dexter

> Tiverton

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