



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
235 Promenade Street,
Providence, RI 02908

Office: 401.222.2771
Fax: 401.222.6802

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chairman
House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 7060 An Act Relating to Parks and Recreational Areas – General Provisions

Dear Chairman Casey,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 7060, which would place development restrictions on Sapowet Marsh Management Area.

Sapowet Marsh Management Area is a DEM-managed property located along the banks of the Sakonnet River in Tiverton. The property provides the public with a variety of recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, and hiking. Portions of the land are also leased by DEM to farmers for agricultural purposes during the growing season. For these reasons, DEM recommends that the legislation be amended to allow multi-year agricultural leases and to more clearly define the uses of the property that would be allowed should this legislation become law. We would be pleased to work with the sponsor and the members of the Committee to develop legislative language that addresses these issues.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on this legislation and would be pleased to make ourselves available as needed. Please feel free to contact Ryan Mulcahey, DEM Director of Legislative Affairs, at ryan.mulcahey@dem.ri.gov should you have any additional questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrence Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terrence Gray, P.E.
Director

cc: Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
The Honorable John G. Edwards
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, House Policy Director