



David Dadekian
Eat Drink RI LLC
1061 Fish Hill Road
Coventry, RI 02816

Testimony in support of H-8148

April 9, 2024

Honorable Chairperson Shanley and the members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media and marketing companies in the region for all things culinary. As an advocate for our food system, a small business owner working with many small business farmers, and as a citizen concerned about our changing climate, **I strongly support H-8148.**

Given all of the Coastal Marine Resources Council's failures to comply to its own rules and regulations, this long overdue Bill will give a newly created Rhode Island Department of Coastal Resources the expertise and accountability needed to protect and manage Rhode Island's unique coastal environment before it is too late. CRMC members have had the absolute power to make all decisions for the our coastal resources, yet often none of the councilors are required to have any knowledge in areas under the CRMC's jurisdiction. The council has the authority to override decisions made by the extremely competent staff members who are knowledgeable in all sectors of coastal policy.

It's difficult to imagine that as structured, the current will make the right decisions needed in dealing with issues of rising waters due to climate change, the development of offshore wind or maintaining a delicate balance in the use of the bay for aquaculture, recreation, tourism and environmental justice. Narragansett Bay is Rhode Island's most important asset, and it must be protected for the sake of all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you to Representative Cortvriend and her co-sponsors on H-8148. Respectfully, I urge you to pass H-8148 forward to the full Senate for passage this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Dadekian