

**To: Rep. Evan Shanley, Chairman, House Committee on State Government & Elections**

**From: Katherine P Lewis, Block Island, RI**

**Re: My Support for House Bill 8148**

**CC: Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk**

**Date: April 7, 2024**

Dear Rep. Shanley,

Due to the difficulty of traveling to Providence from Block Island on the winter boat schedule, I cannot attend the April 9 hearing on the CRMC Reform Legislation proposed in H 8148. I submit this memo instead to voice my support for this legislation.

I have been a RI resident and a registered Democrat since 1973. I lived in Providence for 9 years, Barrington for 22, and year-round on Block Island since 2004. Nearly every day for the past 51 years, I have glimpsed some portion of Rhode Island's coastline. It is our state's greatest treasure and is vital to our economic and environmental wellbeing. But our coastal resources are increasingly threatened by sea level rise and unwise development.

Our current organizational structure is inadequate for representing the interests of all Rhode Islanders. Over the years, I have met several CRMC staff members and been impressed by their competence and professionalism. Unfortunately, I have also seen their hard work sometimes overruled by a Council with little expertise in coastal management. We need a more professional and transparent organization to protect our collective treasure.

The quality of life for every Rhode Islander is directly impacted by our coastal resources, whether one lives in an urban, suburban, or rural setting. Elevating Coastal Resources to a cabinet level office within state government makes sense. Please support H 8148.

Sincerely,

Katherine P. Lewis  
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