

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Sue Cornacchia <tobyupelo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 3:19 PM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 8148 - PRO

From: Susan Cornacchia  
56 Tupelo Rd.  
South Kingstown, RI

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

Steven Sepe, Committee Clerk  
[HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov)

Dear Representative Shanley,

I would like to register my support for Bill 8148, which would eliminate the politically-appointed CRMC Council and create a new Department of Coastal Resources, along with a full-time staff attorney.

CRMC needs fully professional expertise throughout all areas of the agency's jurisdiction. Political leaders have been deliberately under-resourcing and de-professionalizing CRMC for far too long. I am reminded of this every year, when I read the annual report of the CRMC Rights of Way Subcommittee. The repetitive alerts in these reports, about lack of funding and the need to rely upon volunteers, even for legal support, are astonishing. Year after year, these alerts are met with a habitual lack of concern from state leadership. This neglect has prompted Rhode Island citizens and nonprofit organizations to create their own coastal watchdog groups to address this vacuum.

By now, I hope state leaders recognize how many citizens object to this neglect of staffing and resources for coastal issues that are so much at the heart our state and our future. I appreciate the staff of CRMC who are the true professionals, and I appreciate the representatives who are seeking reform by bringing this bill forward.

Thank you,  
Susan Cornacchia  
South Kingstown, RI