

Steven Sepe

From: Susan McVicar <vicarofchurchst@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:29 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 8148 - CRMC Reform

Re: House Bill No. 8148

Title: Replaces the coastal resources management council with a state department of coastal resources and transfers all of the powers and duties between the two (2) authorities.

Dear Representatives:

The reforming of CRMC is becoming more and more urgent and necessary as climate change and rising seas affect our coastline, and the old ways of doing things is just not going to cut it anymore.

Over the past five years, the CRMC board has included three attorneys, the CEO of a chain of physical therapy centers, a retired Navy technician, an owner of a shipping company, a dental hygienist, a city planner, a real-estate developer. This often politically appointed citizen board lacks coastal knowledge, and has often ignored years of the CRMC staff's experience to overrule them on shoreline development projects. In my opinion, this is like having a marine biologist read your dental x-rays and decide what teeth to pull. CRMC has always been understaffed and underfunded, which weakens them even more.

As it is now, the CRMC is an embarrassment to our state and its residents. Reform CRMC.

Respectfully,

Susan McVicar
North Kingstown
(401) 284-8861
vicarofchurchst@gmail.com