

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House bill 5706, which would reform the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC).

The Council has been a problem for a long time. It is a politically-appointed volunteer body with the power to make important decisions affecting our coastal resources, but Council members are not required to have any expertise in coastal law or policy! They often ignore the recommendations and decisions of its professional, expert staff. Experts, serving under an accountable Director, should make these decisions. Rhode Islanders do not trust the Council, whose actions continue to put our coastal environment and economy at risk.

I urge you to support H5706 to establish a new Department of Coastal Resources. Let the professional staff of experts do their job without being overridden by a politically-appointed Council.

Thank you,

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