



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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April 5, 2021

The Honorable Kathleen A. Fogarty
Chairwoman
House Committee on Special Legislation
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H 6191 An Act Relating to General Assembly – Permanent Joint Committee on Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions.

Dear Chairwoman Fogarty,

Thank you for providing the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) the opportunity to comment on H 6191, which would name the new fishing pier at Rocky Point State Park after former DEM Deputy Director Larry Mouradjian. DEM strongly supports this legislation.

Larry Mouradjian worked at DEM for 38 years from 1979 to 2017, where he held many positions, culminating in his years as Deputy Director for Natural Resources. He played a critical role in securing the property at Rocky Point to ensure it would be enjoyed for generations to come. As soon as DEM started working with the City of Warwick to create the park, Larry envisioned rebuilding the fishing pier to increase public benefit from this beautiful coastal resource.

Larry held an overarching vision of how Rhode Island's lands and waters could thrive and support public use, and this vision guided his actions and the path of the Natural Resources Bureau over the years. The results of his leadership include ensuring that Fort Adams State Park would be the permanent home of the Newport Folk and Jazz Festivals and a place where children would learn to sail and huge regattas would be hosted; continuing to ensure that the Port of Galilee and Pier 9 would be vibrant places supporting our state's commercial and recreational fishing industries; and working with partners to protect the Tillinghast Pond Management Area. Larry's legacy can be felt across the state, and the impact of his career and influence has made things better for the habitat, creatures, and people of Rhode Island. Naming the fishing pier at Rocky Point after Larry Mouradjian is an appropriate way to honor his legacy.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation. Please feel free to contact me at janet.coit@dem.ri.gov should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet Coit". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "C".

Janet Coit
Director

CC: Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation
The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.