

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair  
House State Government and Elections  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: BILL NUMBER H-6126 – RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns respectfully submits testimony with concerns to House Bill 6126, which proposes to alter the composition of the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) by reducing its membership from ten (10) members to seven (7).

While we understand and appreciate the sponsor's intent to improve the structure and efficiency of the CRMC, the League has concerns with the proposed reduction in membership, particularly the elimination of representation from a coastal community. This change appears to remove a critical voice that reflects the unique challenges and priorities faced by Rhode Island's coastal municipalities, many of whom are directly impacted by CRMC decisions on shoreline access, resiliency planning, and coastal development.

Local representation on the CRMC provides valuable insight and practical knowledge that is essential for balanced and informed decision-making. As the state's primary advocate for municipalities, the League believes that coastal community input is an indispensable asset to the Council and should not be excluded from its deliberative process.

The League stands ready to work with the sponsor to amend the legislation in a manner that maintains municipal representation, particularly from a coastal municipality, while also supporting the sponsor's broader objective of enhancing the CRMC's effectiveness and accountability.

We thank you for your consideration and welcome the opportunity for further dialogue on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee