

Testimony in Support of H7996: Department of Environmental Management

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Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

To: Chair Shanley and the honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections

Please, please pass this bill out of committee. The work of the CRMC is too important to our state to allow the continuance of its mismanagement, inefficiency, and governing structure. It is simply not working. Many critical decisions made by CRMC have been overturned in court. Much of its work e.g. the permitting processes takes far too long and puts structures at risk for further damage while owners await permits which often take months to receive. Council members are often unqualified for making the decisions they make and often cannot meet due to a lack of a quorum, further delaying their decisions. The structure of the Council membership changed last year so as to provide expertise to this decision making board, but they still have not been appointed. For all of these reasons, the CRMC is not working and should immediately be moved to DEM where a governing structure that does work could afford the same safeguards to CRMC's decision making. These issues have existed for years, and it is now time for legislative action to occur in the hopes of remedying all these problems. Thank you.