

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Kathryn Dorchies <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2026 4:44 PM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Reform CRMC, Pass H7996

Dear Chairman Shanley,

At least once a week I walk my toddler and infant down to Mt. Hope Bay. The eldest climbs rocks, collects seaweed, uncovers treasures (usually broken shell bits), and caws back to the gulls. (The youngest mostly just thinks the breeze is exciting at this point.)

Unlike so many you might hear from, I did not grow up in the Ocean State. My extended family lives three hours away, and frequently requests our relocation, but Rhode Island's natural resources anchor my family here. This is the childhood I want my kids to have: all the joys of the forests AND the ocean jam-packed into one beautiful adventure.

Unfortunately, the current CRMC structure compromises that experience for us. If we cannot adequately care for our coastal resources, we will lose them. I don't want unelected volunteers making decisions about offshore wind, aquaculture, or development. I want experts making these decisions, and I want accountability for these decisions. My tax dollars, and my children, deserve it.

The General Assembly needs to take meaningful steps to reform CRMC. The so-called reform law passed last year has not been implemented and simply changing who serves on the politically-appointed Council will not change what is a fundamentally flawed and inefficient structure.

Senate bill 3082 (McKenney) and House bill 7996 (Edwards) would create a more efficient and better-resourced coastal agency by eliminating the appointed Council and merging CRMC staff into the Department of Environmental Management. The new Bureau of Coastal Resources Management would bring Rhode Island in line with most other coastal states, give coastal resources access to shared legal and administrative resources and result in more timely and efficient permitting decisions.

Please prioritize our coastal resources and pass S3082 and H7996. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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