

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Paul Beaudette <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2026 10:43 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Reform CRMC, Pass H7996

Dear Chairman Shanley,

Members of the House State Government Committee.

My name is Paul Beaudette and I served on the CRMC for 3 years. Having this perspective I am supportive of the changes that S3082/H7996 offers to enhance the protection of our coastline and access to it for all our citizens. The current structure, even though I was on it, does not work as CRMC was charged in the legislation that created it.

I have to say here that it is the structure of the CRMC that fails to work effectively. NOT the staff who are dedicated professionals trying their best with the limited resources and the fact that a final decision on matters is left to the committee.

The General Assembly needs to take meaningful steps to reform CRMC. The 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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