

Steven Sepe

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of Warren Prell <warren_prell@brown.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 25, 2026 9:58 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Reform CRMC, Pass H7996

[You don't often get email from warren_prell@brown.edu. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Chairman Shanley,

As an oceanographer and fisherman who has studied the Bay for over 40 years, I've seen great improvements in the water quality. However, the current Council structure to the CRMC has been an impediment to the continued progress. The Council has no accountability and has continued to make decisions (which are usually overturned) tha go against Staff recommendations. The merger with DEM would solve that problem and streamline the entire permitting structure. I urge you to support S3082 and H7996.

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,

Warren Prell
70 Bay Rd
Barrington, RI 02806
warren_prell@brown.edu