

Steven Sepe

From: bounce@bounce.votervoice.net on behalf of William Hutchinson
<user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 11:39 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Reform CRMC, Pass H7996

Dear Chairman Shanley,

As a life long coastal Rhode Islander I have been on both sides of CRMC function. Witnessing the Jamestown Boat Yard expansion/dredging forum and decision making was simply horrifying on virtually every level (their so called decision has been vacated by the courts which required HUGE time and \$ inputs from concerned citizens to achieve and which only starts the whole process over again!). The CRMC staff seem to be professional, good people but the decision making body is simply gross and the recently passed bill to change it is a farce. PLEASE make the real change happen!!!

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,

William Hutchinson
79 Hamilton Ave
Jamestown, RI 02835
whutch@cox.net