

**Comments submitted to the Rhode Island House Legislative Commission  
regarding the need to restructure the CRMC, submitted January 19, 2022.**

The residents of Rhode Island need a professional organization grounded in science, not politics, with the authority to regulate the long-term sustainability of our shoreline; to protect public access; and to prioritize planning for sea level rise. Shoreline management strategies must be integrated across the State.

Jurisdiction of a restructured CRMC should extend inland as far as necessary to protect shoreline ecosystems. Transitional areas between land and water are critical to protection but have been increasingly replaced by manicured private lawns which add undesirable pesticides and fertilizers to Rhode Island's ground and sea water. The clear cutting of trees to enhance views from private properties has increased erosion.

Public access to the waterfront has not been consistently enforced resulting in the appropriation of public rights by private financial interests. (See "change.org" petition link below, submitted to the Newport City Council last year and signed by 5,498 people to date, which reflects these concerns.)

I've lived in Newport for 20 years and have seen the increasing loss of public access and disregard for environmental issues with my own eyes. Your constituents request your support to reverse this trend.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues.

Bonnie Watson, Esq.  
44 Catherine Street  
Newport, RI

Representing the Newport Waterfront Alliance and its' petition for change at:  
[HTTPS://www.change.org/p/newport-zoning-board-stop-hotel-building-on-the-waterfront](https://www.change.org/p/newport-zoning-board-stop-hotel-building-on-the-waterfront)