

March 2, 2022

Dear Members of the Commission,

I'm writing in support of your consideration of how to protect shoreline access, as laid out in the RI Constitution, for all.

--Establishing a clear, "user-friendly", common sense guideline for the public's lateral access is necessary. I support using either the vegetation line or the swash line (aka wrack or seaweed line) plus 10 feet. The outdated line of demarcation currently on the books is not clear, not user-friendly, often underwater and causes more conflicts than it solves. If people can't see it and can't agree on what or where it is, they can't use it.

--Fully funding the CRMC, adding more investigative, legal and enforcement capability is also in the best interests of protecting the shoreline and the public, whether property owner or not.

--It is common sense that lateral access to enjoying the shore includes standing, sitting, spreading out a beach towel, swimming, wading, surfing, fishing. Saying the beach is like a sidewalk defies common sense and human nature - never a good basis for a regulation designed for people to follow.

--Yes, shoreline property owners pay taxes. So do we all in one way or another. But their taxes do not cover the cost of depriving people of their Constitutional right to enjoy the shoreline. They have a spot on the beach, but so does every other person so protected by the RI Constitution. A good, clear, common sense guideline will help this amazing natural resource be shared, as it should be.

--We're "the Ocean State", not the shrinking public access to the beach state. Please let's not pretend that shoreline property owners own the ocean, too.

Thank you for your work on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Ellen Kane

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