January 26, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-23-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council:

**Raymond Coia**

Vice Chair

(Appointed/Elected Official Representing Coastal Municipality Over 25,000)

For a term expiring January 31, 2024.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

cc: Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Michael McCaffrey, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Dennis Algiere, Senate Minority Leader
January 26, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-23-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council:

**Donald Gomez**

(Appointed Representing Coastal Community with Population Less Than 25,000)

For a term expiring January 31, 2024.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

cc:
Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Michael McCaffrey, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Dennis Algiere, Senate Minority Leader
Town of Little Compton
Office of the Council President
Post Office Box 226
Little Compton, Rhode Island 02837

2 February 2021

Chairwoman Dawn Euer
Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairwoman Euer,

This letter is written to strongly endorse the re-appointment of Donald Gomez to the Coastal Resources Management Council. Serving as Vice Chair of three of the Council's five standing committees (Planning and Procedures, Ocean SAMP, and Beach SAMP), his leadership and involvement have been critical to the success of the organization.

Don Gomez brings a wealth of experience to the Council. For example:
- Raised and living continuously in the town of Little Compton, he knows firsthand the environmental impacts on a community that borders both the Atlantic Ocean and the Sakonnet River.
- Trained and serving the Navy as a systems engineer, he has broad experience in solving complex problems in a marine and littoral environment.
- Having served as President of the Town Council, he is intimately acquainted with intergovernmental relationships.

I have known and worked closely with Don for three decades and believe his abilities and dedication are superb.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Mushen
Town Council President

Copy: Honorable Members of the Committee
January 26, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE:

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with the provisions of Section § 46-23-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following reappointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council:

Jennifer R. Cervenka
Chair
(Public Member)

For a term expiring January 31, 2024.

To this appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

cc:
Honorable Dominick Ruggerio, Senate President
Honorable Michael McCaffrey, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Dennis Algiere, Senate Minority Leader
Honorable Senators,

I am writing to request that you reject the reconfirmation of Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) members Joy Montenaro, Jerry Sahagian, Donald Gomez Raymond Coia and Jennifer Cervanka and that you further appoint new members with environmental expertise who reflect the populations and interests most likely to be affected by activities on the coast, especially black and indigenous people.

Rhode Island state law calls for the CRMC to have 16 members, a maximum of 8 of whom are to be appointed by the governor. Additionally, half of the CRMC shall be elected or appointed officials at the time of their appointment, and the majority of the members shall represent coastal communities. At present, the CRMC has 10 members, all of whom have been appointed by the governor. At this time it is unclear how many CRMC members are elected or appointed officials at the time of their appointment. Currently less than half of the CRMC members reside in coastal communities. There appears to be some confusion as to whom, besides the governor, has the authority to fill CRMC positions, but it is clear that the governor has appointed more than the amount allotted to her office and that not all of them meet the existing criteria. We need new appointments of people who do meet these standards and they must be people whose record and expertise demonstrate that they will make ethical and informed decisions on coastal access and environmental issues. Environmental Justice communities as designated by the New England EPA are more likely to be affected by environmental racism and treated as sacrifice zones for industry. These communities should be represented on the CRMC.

It's not too much to expect that a minimum of four members of the required 16-person CRMC to be people of color, with at least one indigenous member, one a resident of the South Side Providence and one from Washington Park, in addition to the other qualifications noted above. To meet the requirement that the majority of the CRMC members need to reside in coastal communities, I request that new appointees who reside in coastal Environmental Justice communities as designated by the EPA or
who belong to local indigenous tribes be given special consideration, and that business dealings regarding the coast be a disqualifying factor. Coastal access and clean air and water for all Rhode Islanders is a Constitutional right and CRMC members must not be trying to take it away.

Senators, I urge you to reject the reappointments of Joy Montenaro, Jerry Sahagian, Donald Gomez, Raymond Coia and Jennifer Cervanka. I also urge that this be the first part of a process of making sure that CRMC membership reflects both the makeup and the interests of all affected communities, especially indigenous people and all those of us who can't afford to buy a waterfront estate or membership in an elite club. The days of the government representing only the interests of corporations, fossil fuels and the wealthy must end now.

Because I am a resident of southern Rhode Island familiar with this particular case I am writing to object specifically to Mr. Sahagian's re-appointment as CRMC “Public Member Representing a Coastal Community” for ethics reasons. Although he has served for more than twenty years, Mr. Sahagian’s business interests come into direct conflict with the public’s interest in equitable coastal access which compromises Mr. Sahagian’s role as representative for coastal communities. On April 24, 2018, Mr. Sahagian went before the House Corporations Committee, as a founder of The Preserve Club and Residences, seeking support for legislation that would allow canned hunting of imported exotic animals at The Preserve. Mr. Sahagian demonstrated he would shape state environmental and wildlife regulations to serve a narrow personal business interest. Mr. Sahagian, who sells real estate for The Preserve, is engaged in business that conflicts with the coastal access interests of citizens he would represent. The Preserve is part of the Ocean House Management Collection. Reciprocal resort privileges, including a "private beach" experience, are being negotiated between the Preserve and sister resorts in Westerly. Lucrative coastal access deals with luxury resorts increasingly threatens public access and rights of way for the general public. Mr. Sahagian, who sells property at The Preserve, is engaged in business that conflicts with the coastal access interests of citizens he would represent.

Clearly the whole CRMC system deserves the "sunlight is the best disinfectant" treatment. Rejecting these reappointments is the first responsible step towards ethical stewardship of our precious coastline.
Sincerely,
Amber Kelley Collins
176 Sycamore Lane
Wakefield, RI 02879
(401)269-8472
amberafc@gmail.com
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee

I am writing to request that your committee not approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. I have been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond. The CRMC in public denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other users of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of town moorings available for public rental. These members of the CRMC voted at a private meeting, with no notice to the parties which have fought this application for 17 years, to give Champlin’s a huge expansion any way. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the superior court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the parties the organizations that have been parties to the case in the CRMC, and who won the denial of the application.

Corrie Heinz
Block Island Land Trust
Former President of The Committee for the Great Salt Pond (2002/3 -2010)
Dawn Euer, Esq.
Chair
Senate Committee on the Environment
Re: Reappointments to the Coastal Resources Management Council
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write to request that you not act on the nominations for reappointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council (“CRMC”) of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, and Joy Montanaro. The reason for this request is that these CRMC members very recently voted in a private meeting to approve an agreement to give Champlin’s Marina on Block Island permission for a major expansion of its marina into the Great Salt Pond which, if it occurred, would significantly displace other uses of the pond, including the Town’s mooring field for public mooring rentals.

I have been counsel of record for intervenors at the CRMC with respect to the Champlin’s application since 2003. In the CMRC proceedings that resulted in the CRMC’s unanimous denial of the Champlin’s application in 2011 and 2013, I represented the Town of New Shoreham, the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the Block Island Land Trust, and the Block Island Conservancy. I was counsel of record for all of these parties in Champlin’s appeal of the CRMC denial in superior court. That court a year ago in a 55-page decision rejected Champlin’s appeal in its entirety, and affirmed the CRMC’s denial of the application. I represent the same parties in the Supreme Court on Champlin’s appeal from the superior court judgment.

According to a recent filing in the Supreme Court on behalf of Champlin’s and the CRMC, the CRMC, with the consenting votes of these members who are up for reappointment, agreed in November, 2020, to engage in mediation with Champlin’s concerning its application. I want to emphasize that because the Champlin’s appeal arose from the Administrative Procedures Act, this case was NOT subject to the Supreme Court’s appellate mediation program. I want to further emphasize that I was given NO NOTIFICATION that the CRMC was going to consider the subject. Finally, it must be emphasized that exclusive jurisdiction over the Champlin’s case is in the Supreme Court. The CRMC has had no authority over the case since Champlin’s filed its appeal in 2013.

AFTER the CRMC secretly agreed to engage in mediation with Champlin’s, the CRMC’s legal counsel in an email informed the town solicitor that the CRMC
had agreed to enter mediation only on the condition that the Town participated. There was no communication with me or the other parties I represent. The Town council voted not to participate in mediation. There are very good reasons for this decision. The intervenors have confidence that the superior court’s 55-page decision will withstand appeal. Mediation without all of the parties to the litigation is meaningless. The CRMC is not a proper party to mediation; it was the adjudicator, in the same role as a judge in civil litigation. It has no right to negotiate the intervenors’ rights in the judgment affirming the CRMC denial of the Champlin’s application. The proposed mediator, Retired Chief Justice Frank Williams, had written a dissenting opinion in the prior Supreme Court decision on the Champlin’s case in favor of the Champlin’s expansion.

Nevertheless, and contrary to its counsel representation to the New Shoreham town solicitor, the Champlin’s-CRMC filing states that the CRMC in fact engaged in a secret mediation with Champlin’s, reached agreement to allow a marina expansion that is directly contrary to the CRMC’s previous decisions, and voted, again in a secret meeting, to approve the agreement. The four CRMC members whose reappointments are before you all voted in favor of this secret agreement.

I believe that voting to approve a permit allowing a very significant development in coastal waters of this state, in a meeting held behind closed doors and without notice to the parties to the case, and in direct contradiction of the CRMC’s express findings in the very case, is manifestly inconsistent with a CRMC member’s responsibility as a guardian of the state’s public trust coastal resources. That the Champlin’s case was within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court makes this action all the more egregious. I ask that this Committee undertake a thorough investigation of how this transaction came about. Until the Committee has all of the facts, it would be totally inappropriate to reappoint these members to the position of trust that membership on the CRMC entails.

Very truly yours,

/s/R. Daniel Prentiss

R. Daniel Prentiss

R. Daniel Prentiss

R. DANIEL PRENTISS, P.C.
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Block Island, and I am writing to request that your committee not approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve an expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond, after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The CRMC in public denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other users of the Great Salt Pond, and greatly reduce the number of Town moorings available for public rental. The Superior Court, one year ago, rejected Champlin’s appeal of that CRMC denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to reverse their own denial and ignore the Superior Court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal. Furthermore, the CRMC has entered into an agreement with Champlin’s, with no notice to the organizations that have been parties to the case before the CRMC and who won the denial of the application. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

Sincerely,

George Davis

400 Seaweed Lane
P.O. Box 247
Block Island, RI 02807

gbd3quahog@gmail.com
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Block Island and am writing to ask you that you NOT vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to this CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The Superior Court, one year ago, rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC any former members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve, what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Greenlee, M.D.
PO Box 846
921 Coast Guard Road
Block Island, RI 02807-0846
rmg838@aol.com
cell: 914-715-8029
home: 401-466-2153
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a long time resident of Block Island to ask that you NOT vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC.

These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely.

This audacious and dishonorable behavior can not be tolerated in our government.

Sincerely,
Alicia Hammarskjold
February 2, 2021

Senator Dawn Euer, Chair

Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture

Via email: Slegislation@rilegislature.gov; sen-euer@rilegislature.gov

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge your committee not to reappoint Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. Our community has been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s Marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond on Block Island. The CRMC in public denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other users of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of town moorings available for public rental. The four members of the CRMC named above voted at a private meeting, with no notice to the parties which have spent the last 17 years fighting this application, to grant Champlin’s a huge expansion anyway. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

Furthermore, I urge this Committee to investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the Superior Court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal, and also chose to enter into an agreement with Champlin’s, with no notice to the organizations that have been parties to the case in the CRMC and who won the denial of the application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Tarbox
Dear, Chairperson Dawn Euer and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

We are writing to request that you reject the reconfirmation of Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) members Joy Montenaro, Jerry Sahagian, Donald Gomez, Raymond Coia and Jennifer Cervanka and that you further appoint new members with environmental expertise who reflect the populations and interests most likely to be affected by activities on the coast, especially environmental justice communities* and communities of color.

Rhode Island state law calls for the CRMC to have 16 members, a maximum of 8 of whom are to be appointed by the governor. Additionally, half of the CRMC shall be elected or appointed officials at the time of their appointment, and the majority of the members shall represent coastal communities. At present, the CRMC has 10 members, all of whom have been appointed by the governor. At this time it is unclear how many CRMC members are elected or appointed officials at the time of their appointment. Currently less than half of the CRMC members reside in coastal communities. There appears to be some confusion as to whom, besides the governor, has the authority to fill CRMC positions, but it is clear that the governor has appointed more than the amount allotted to her office and that not all of them meet the existing criteria. New appointments of people who do meet these standards are surely required, and it is also surely reasonable to ask that they be people whose record and expertise demonstrated that they will make informed decisions on environmental issues, with an emphasis in the health and safety of Rhode Island's coasts and coastal communities, not merely on the profits of corporations.

EPA New England lists South Providence and Washington Park as Environmental Justice communities; other coastal Rhode Island communities that are also Environmental Justice communities include neighborhoods in Central Falls, southern Narragansett, northern Newport, Warwick, East Providence and North Kingstown. Environmental Justice communities in Rhode Island, particularly communities of color which are more likely to be affected by environmental racism and treated as sacrifice zones for industry, should be represented on the CRMC: we are calling for a minimum of four members of the required 16-person CRMC to be people of color, with one a resident of the South Side Providence and one from Washington Park, in addition to the other qualifications noted above. To meet the requirement that the majority of the CRMC members need to reside in coastal communities, we request
that new appointees from coastal communities reside in coastal Environmental Justice communities.

Environmental Justice Communities are established by DEM by using census data to determine if the census block is in the top 15% for the state as either minority or low income as these are the communities that are disproportionately impacted by pollution. According to EPA, Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

Senators, we urge you to reject the reappointment of Joy Montenaro, Jerry Sahagian, Donald Gomez, Raymond Coia and Jennifer Cervanka. We also urge that this be the first part of a process of making sure that CRMC membership reflects both the makeup and the interests of all affected communities, most especially Environmental Justice communities inhabited by people of color. In this way can Rhode Islanders be confident that the long-term health, safety and functioning of all our coastal communities, not just those inhabited by our wealthiest residents, and the interests of our environment and people, not just of a few people and their corporate allies.

Sincerely,

The People’s Port Authority
Monica Huertas
Executive Director

MAP OF Environmental Justice Area in RI

http://www.dem.ri.gov/envequi
EPA New England's Potential Environmental Justice (EJ Areas) are based on the 2000 Census Block Group Boundary layer. The methodology used to determine how the areas are coded involved identifying those blockgroups with percentages in the top 15% of the region* for low-income residents and/or non-white populations.

* RI has modified the EPA approach by applying this definition to the State rather than the Region. The result is a larger, more inclusive area than the EPA version.
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to request that your committee not approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. I have been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s Marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond. The CRMC in public denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other users of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of Town moorings available for public rental. These members of the CRMC voted at a private meeting, with no notice to the parties which have fought this application for 17 years, to give Champlin’s a huge expansion anyway. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the Superior Court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the organizations that have been parties to the case before the CRMC, and who won the denial of the application.

Sincerely,
Shelley Weintraub
Great Island, Narragansett

Sent from my iPad
Dear Chair, Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a concerned citizen and resident Block Islander who is concerned about the Rhode Island's openness in government to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the superior court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the parties the organizations that have been parties to the case in the CRMC, and who won the denial of the application.

Sincerely,

Wendy Crawford

Wendy Crawford
Sales Associate
Lila Delman Real Estate International
Local Legacy...International Reach
Direct 401-466-8777
Mobile 401-714-1999
Block Island, RI 0280
Dear Senator and Chairwoman Euer:

I write this morning as a summer visitor to beautiful Block Island and to voice my opposition to the reappointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council of Mr. Coia, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Cervenka, Mr. Sahagian, and Ms. Montanaro, for the following reasons.

There is something very wrongheaded happening at Rhode Island’s Coastal Resources Management Council. After vigorously battling for more than seventeen (17) years against Champlin’s Marina’s aggressive attempt to occupy ever more precious and environmentally-fragile space in the Block Island Great Salt Pond, the CRMC, in a breathtaking and seemingly inexplicable reversal of course, quietly agreed sometime last fall to what CRMC is now calling a “settlement” with Champlin’s. The so-called “settlement,” which was supported by all five of the above Council members, purports to allow Champlin’s to extend its fuel dock on both its eastern and western edge so that the enlarged fuel dock will be an astounding 314 feet east to west. Further, CRMC now says that it has agreed to allow Champlin’s to extend its piers east-to-west to the same extent as the expanded fuel dock – 314 feet.

It has been reported that CRMC entered into this agreement with Champlin’s after reneging on its promise to the Town of New Shoreham that CRMC would not enter into any settlement negotiations with Champlin’s without the participation of the Town. And the other three local environmental groups that are parties to the litigation, The Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the Block Island Conservancy, and the Block Island Land Trust, were apparently not informed at all of the discussions with Champlin’s.

The “settlement” was unanimously approved by CRMC in Executive Session sometime in December of last year, although the public notice for the December 8 CRMC meeting stated only that there would be an “Executive Session” discussion of the Champlin’s litigation – no mention at all of settlement negotiations with Champlin’s. And on January 8, CRMC and Champlin’s together filed a “Joint Motion” with the Rhode Island Supreme Court, summarily asking the Supreme Court to approve the “settlement.”

It is noteworthy that CRMC’s approval of the Champlin’s “settlement” took place just a few days before the December 23 closing on the recent sale of Champlin’s to new ownership for $19,000,000. See Block Island Times, January 7, 2021. It was not reported and, to my knowledge, it is not publicly known whether the Champlin’s multi-million dollar sale to new ownership was contingent upon CRMC’s approval of the long-sought-after Champlin’s expansion, but I respectfully suggest that this issue is worthy of question and investigation.

Now CRMC and Champlin’s are asking the Rhode Island Supreme Court to approve the hastily-assembled settlement, representing, incorrectly, in its written filing with the Court that CGSP, the BI Land Trust, and the BI Conservancy all refused to participate in the “mediation.” In fact, none of the three BI environmental groups was even informed that CRMC intended to engage Champlin’s in a settlement conversation.

I trust that the Rhode Island Supreme Court will readily see straight through such a transparent attempt to bypass all notions of judicial fairness and democratic due process. In the meantime, I respectfully suggest that Mr. Coia, Mr. Gomez, Ms. Cervenka, Mr. Sahagian, and Ms. Montanaro, all of whom not only participated in but also supported CRMC’s abrupt and seemingly inexplicable about-face on the issue of the Champlin’s expansion, should not be reappointed to serve on the Coastal Resources Management Council. Thank you very much for you careful consideration of this important issue.
Respectfully,

R. Webb Moore

Richmond, Virginia
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Block Island and am writing to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The Superior Court, one year ago, rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC any former members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve, what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,

Cindy Pappas

2020, 2019 #1 Block Island Agency for Residential Sales
2020, 2019 #1 Sales Agent for Residential Sales

Sullivan Sotheby's International Realty
PO Box 144
Block Island, RI 02807
O|401.466.5521 C|401.864.0996
Email: cindy@sullivanbi.com
Website: www.sullivanbi.com
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am a resident of Block Island and am writing to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. There is no reason to have people who would vote in private to ignore an application that has already been denied by the CTMC, concerning Champlin’s expansion.

Sincerely,

Patricia Saylor

618 Corn Neck Road, Block Island, RI 02807
2/2/2021

RE: Reappointments to CRMC and Senate Bill No. 78

Respected Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture,

I write to you requesting that you vote No on the appointments of Jennifer Cervenka and Jerry Sahagian to the CRMC. Both have shown disregard for the community of South Providence, particularly in the deliberations and decisions made surrounding the Liquified Natural Gas facility in the Port of Providence. These decisions have consequences: South Providence remains an extremely polluted area of the state, and residents have suffered asthma at increased rates due to the industry there. Personnel is policy, as the saying goes, and bad policy can get people sick or killed. Cervenka and Sahagian have shown themselves to be unqualified and unprepared to lead in the state’s environmental protection efforts.

In a similar vein, I also write in support of Senate Bill No. 78. This bill would help to transform Rhode Island into a beacon of hope for the US response to the climate crisis, which has already begun to wreak havoc on our communities and economy. It would provide a pathway for us to free ourselves from expensive, imported fuels and take advantage of renewable resources. Rhode Island can lead – please help us do so.

Respectfully,

Adam Cable, LICSW
Senator Euer,

Thank you for your work regarding the environment and marine health of RI! Please be informed of the following points with the reappointment of CRMC members due this Wednesday, Feb 4th at 4pm:

During several Zoom meetings with CRMC re: Dumplings Cove development in Jamestown, the treatment of two female council members by some of the male members was appalling, dismissive and almost belittling.

Many of the CRMC members have served for more than 10 years; many do not show up at meetings; in-person or Zoomed, and many have questionable education for their position in determining the health and protection of our shoreline.

Please investigate what happened to the RI State Senate Resolution during their "Legislative Wrap UP/ 2019 " RESOLUTION NO 1006; RESOLUTION 401 which calls for "the creation of a 15 member special legislative commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of, and provide recommendations for, the reorganization of CRMC."? This clearly needs to be put into play!

There is no representation on the current CRMC from Narragansett, North Kingston, South Kingston, or Newport; but 2 council members are from Little Compton. One, Mr. Hudner, clearly and most vocally put development of a marina over the safety of swimmers and kayakers and paddleboarders.

The above mentioned 4 communities are major maritime destinations in our state and should have recognition and representation on the Council!

Please do whatever you can to right the wrongs of this Council, as it exists today, in order to safeguard the general public and the future of Narragansett Bay!

Respectfully submitted, Paula S Shevlin
Dawn Euer, Esq.

Chair

Senate Committee on the Environment

Re: Reappointments to the Coastal Resources Management Council

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to request that your committee not approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. As a member of the Block Island Land Trust, I have been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond. The CRMC, in public, repeatedly denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other uses of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of town moorings available for public rental. These members of the CRMC who are up for reappointment, voted in December 2020 at a meeting closed to the public, with no notice to the parties which have fought this application for 17 years, to give Champlin’s a huge expansion that is directly contrary to the CRMC’s previous decisions. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

I also request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the Superior Court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the organizations that have been parties to the case, and who won the denial of the application.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. MacMullan
1163 Beacon Hill Rd. Box 457
Block Island, RI 02807
Dawn Euer, Esq.

Chair

Senate Committee on the Environment

Re: Reappointments to the Coastal Resources Management Council

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to request that your committee **not approve** the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. As a member of the Block Island Land Trust, I have been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond. The CRMC, in public, repeatedly denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other uses of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of town moorings available for public rental. These members of the CRMC who are up for reappointment, voted in December 2020 at a meeting closed to the public, with no notice to the parties which have fought this application for 17 years, to give Champlin’s a huge expansion that is directly contrary to the CRMC's previous decisions. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

I also request that this Committee **investigate** how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the Superior Court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the organizations that have been parties to the case, and who won the denial of the application.

Sincerely,
Barbara A. MacMullan
1163 Beacon Hill Rd. Box 457
Block Island, RI 02807
Dear members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture,

My name is Katie Batchelder, from Providence, RI and I’m writing you today to strongly urge you to reject the re-appointments of Donald Gomez, Chair Jennifer Cervenka, Jerry Sahagian, Joy Montanaro, and Vice Chair Raymond Coia for terms that expire January 31, 2024 due to their indifference towards the communities they are supposed to serve, disregard for democratic public engagement, and dismissal of environmental and health issues.

Below is a brief list of why Cervenka is particularly unfit to serve in this role.

1. Jennifer Cervenka was appointed as Chair of the CRMC by Governor Raimondo in July 2017, part of replacing three environmentalists on the Council with pro-fossil fuel, industry insiders midway through the CRMC’s consideration of National Grid’s Providence gas liquefaction facility. For those of you that are not familiar, this facility was approved despite overwhelming community opposition to placing another dangerous and polluting facility in South Providence, a majority BIPOC neighborhood already devastated by pollution.

2. Cervenka’s tenure has been defined by undisclosed conflicts of interest. First, her career as an environmental lawyer has been built on representing oil and chemical companies against government regulatory bodies. She also served as chair of the Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce Coalition immediately before, and during, her tenure as Chair of the CRMC. Multiple National Grid employees are on the boards of the member Chambers of Commerce. Cervenka presided over testimony from coalition members in support of the gas facility.

3. She repeatedly behaved in hostile and aggressive ways towards BIPOC community members who gave public comment opposing the methane gas facility. Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, Joy Montanaro, and Vice Chair Raymond Coia all allowed this racist and anti-democratic behavior to go on and voted in favor of the gas facility.

4. NoLNGinPVD called for her resignation in 2017, and was joined by Senator Jeanine Calkin, Representative Grace Diaz, former Representative Aaron Regunberg, Representative Marcia Ranglin-Vassel, Representative John Lombardi, and Representative Susan Donovan due to the CRMC’s hearings on the gas facility “having been filled with bias, undisclosed conflicts of interest, and violations of free
speech and due process."

a.

Groups that also called for Cervenka’s resignation: the FANG Collective, Direct Action for Rights and Equality (DARE), Women’s March RI, the Whale Guitar Project, Climate Action RI / RI 350, Sierra Club, Mercy Ecology, South Coast Neighbors United, Our Revolution RI, White Noise Collective and Resist Hate RI

Approving these re-appointments paves the way for future decisions that harm BIPOC communities across the state, undermining every Rhode Islander’s right to a healthy environment.

I urge you to reject the appointments of Donald Gomez, Chair Jennifer Cervenka, Jerry Sahagian, Joy Montanaro, and Vice Chair Raymond Coia to the CRMC and push for representation from environmental justice communities instead.

Thank you for your time,

Katie Batchelder
54 Locust St
Providence, RI
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a [resident of Block Island/concerned citizen/Rhode Islander concerned about the environments/Rhode Island concerned about openness in government....] to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the superior court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the parties the organizations that have been parties to the case in the CRMC, and who won the denial of the application.

VERSION 2

I am writing to request that your committee not approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. I have been active for 17 years in opposing the request by Champlin’s marina to expand its marina into the Great Salt Pond. The CRMC in public denied the Champlin’s application because it found that the expansion would interfere with other users of the Great Salt Pond and greatly reduce the number of town moorings available for public rental These members of the CRMC voted at a private meeting, with no notice to the parties which have fought this application for 17 years, to give Champlin’s a huge expansion any way. You should not permit our government agencies to operate in this fashion.

I request that this Committee investigate how and why the CRMC chose to ignore the superior court decision rejecting Champlin’s appeal and enter into an agreement with Champlin’s with no notice to the parties the organizations that have been parties to the case in the CRMC, and who won the denial of the application.

Rosemary Tobin

# 1 in Sales on Block Island for 2016, 2018, 2019 & 2020
Top 10 Producing Agent for Lila Delman Real Estate

Rosemary Tobin
Manager/Sales Associate
Lila Delman Real Estate
Block Island
61 Dodge Street
PO Box 224
Block Island, RI 02807
To: Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture
From: Topher Hamblett, Director of Advocacy
Date: February 3, 2021
Re: Appointments to the Coastal Resources Management Council

Thank you, Chairwoman Euer and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify on Governor Raimondo's nominations for re-appointment to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). The importance of CRMC to the state's environmental health and overall well-being cannot be overstated.

We respectfully urge this committee to consider Governor Raimondo's nominees in the context of CRMC's structure. It is a structure that undermines the integrity of CRMC's regulatory program and often fails to protect natural resources the Council was established to protect.

The Council is a politically appointed body whose members are not required to have experience or expertise in coastal environmental matters. It acts as a collective body, with no one individual held to account for Council decisions, and no one person accountable to the Governor.

The Executive Director and professional agency staff review and determine hundreds of applications, and enforcement actions each year. Yet, contested cases are heard and decided by these political appointees, most of whom are unqualified but have the authority to overturn determinations made by agency staff with expertise.

The deficiencies in the structure of CRMC are exacerbated by the failure of Governors, over many years and through the present, to appoint hearing officers to determine contested cases, as required by law (§ 46-23-20). It is in that void that politically appointed Council members, who are not required to have expertise, are empowered to adjudicate cases.

Unlike other agencies, CRMC staff is not represented by an attorney at hearings, creating an unfair advantage for applicants and those that violate the coastal program.

The agency's structure allows and invites these deficiencies. The General Assembly has yet to take steps to address them. As long as this defective structure is in place, it is imperative that the Governor nominate - and the Senate confirm - candidates that will serve all coastal communities with requisite experience and expertise. New community representatives, including representatives from environmental justice communities, should be appointed to the Council to ensure that the Council represents all Rhode Islanders.
Objection to Reappointment of Raymond Coia and Donald Gomez.
We submit that members of the Council should have a background via education or work
experience in coastal related issues or environmental law. In 2017, Governor Raimondo
removed the only two members of the Council who represented environmental perspectives
and publicly advocated for the environment.

The statute was structured to have municipal representatives serve for a three-year term,
subject to reappointment. It was not intended to have appointments that extended for
decades. Mr. Coia was initially appointed in 2003, and Mr. Gomez in 2007.

Further, both Mr. Coia and Mr. Gomez recently voted to approve the expansion of Champlin’s
Marina. The 2003 application was repeatedly denied by CRMC, and those denials were upheld
by the court as recently as February 2020. Without public input, CRMC reversed its earlier
decision and granted a modified expansion through a so-called “decision” that does not contain
findings of fact and conclusions of law. Members of the Council that supported such a process
that circumvents public input should not be reappointed to the Council. There was
extraordinary public interest and participation in the case.

Support for Reappointment of the Chairwoman, Jennifer Cervenka: This is only the second
term for Chairwoman. Although we do not always agree on issues and outcomes, we submit
that as an experienced environmental attorney, she effectively manages the Council. We work
cooperatively with the Executive Director and the Chair in improving public access and making
improvements to the regulations. The Chair and Executive Director are both responsive and
CRMC openly and quickly shares public records.

Save The Bay Urges Senate Action on CRMC Structure
The Rhode Island coast is our state’s greatest asset. Given the pressing impacts of climate
change and the importance of our coastal resources, Rhode Island should not be the one state
that allows a group of 9 appointed persons, not required to have relevant experience and
expertise, to decide issues that will affect our coastal resources for decades to come.

CRMC is an outlier, regionally and nationally, in its structure, in which a politically appointed
council of volunteers, without legal training or expertise in coastal issues, adjudicate contested
permitting and enforcement cases. The vast majority of coastal states, and all of the New
England states, assign permitting and enforcement decisions to professional staff at executive
branch agencies.

In 2018, as a result of Save The Bay’s challenge to the legality of the Governor’s nominations in
court, this Committee passed a bill to strengthen the transparency and accountability of the
appointments process. That bill, which Save The Bay supported, became law. The Committee
also passed a resolution establishing a Special Legislative Commission to Study the Effect and
Procedures for the Reorganization of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Council. Save The Bay
supported that resolution as well. To our knowledge, the Commission has not met.
We urge this Committee to appoint new qualified members of the Council, including those from environmental justice communities, and take up the work of the Commission to address the long-standing structural issues identified in our testimony. Rhode Island's coastal environment and its coastal communities deserve nothing less.
From: Dean [mailto:bibrown@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:49 PM
To: SlLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: Champlins Marina, Block Island

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a concerned citizen, resident of Block Island, Rhode Island. I am greatly concerned about the tipping point of the ISLANDS FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT. For these reasons I would like to ask that you consider not voting to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,
Dean and Beverly Brown
Old Mill Road
P.O. box 1114
Block Island RI
02807

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From: Mary Anderson [mailto:maryandersonbi@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:48 PM
To: SlLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: Champlin’s Marina

Subject: Champlin’s Marina, Block Island
Good afternoon honorable Chair Euer,

I’m writing to you today as a 30 year island resident who very much understands being committed to community.

This is why I write to you today to ask that you do not reappoint Raymond Coua, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC.

I’m shocked after years of this community to both clearly and strongly make the case to protect the pristine waters of the great salt pond and to prevent private overuse of public shared waters, that in a non transparent, private meeting, the CRMC voted for an expansion of Champlin’s dock space.

Respectfully,
From: Dave Wrinn [mailto:DWrinn@nexgenpss.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:24 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: CRMC Appointments

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a almost monthly visitor and vacationer to the Island ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin's Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin's appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,

David Wrinn

20 Lockwood lane

Norwalk, CT 06851

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From: Amy Wrinn [mailto:amywrinn@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:07 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: reappointment of the CRMC
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a concerned citizen to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,
Amy Wrinn
759 Lakeside Drive (#334)
Block Island RI 02807

From: Sara Nelson [mailto:sara.jeanne.nelson@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:53 PM
To: sLegislation <slegislation@rilegislation.gov>
Subject: CRMC

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a concerned citizen to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,
Sara Nelson
759 Lakeside Drive (#334)
Block Island RI 02807

From: Louise Potter [mailto:weeziepotter@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 12:29 PM
To: sen.euer@rilegislation.gov; SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislation.gov>
Subject: Senate Committee on environment and agriculture meeting 2/3 2021

Dear Senator Euer,
Thank you for your environmental work. It is so important everywhere but especially in this ocean state.

I have some concerns about the reappointment of Donald Gomez to the CRMC (Coastal Resources Management Council). I know that he is one of two members of the council from Little Compton and I understand that there should only be 1 member from each community. Mr Hudner is also from Little Compton. I would think there are other towns of populations under 25,000 that could fill Mr. Gomez’s position, Jamestown, Newport, Narragansett etc. being possibilities.

Jennifer Cervenka was able to quote sections of the Red Book that helped us to understand why her vote on a case was made the way it was. Mr Gomez did not appear to have the rules etc available to help us understand why he voted the way he did. There was a discussion of the parking required for the boatyard (1 space for 1.5 vessels – page 141 L. of Red Book) but he felt the crowded parking was due to recreational users. I not sure he really understood or was interested in the information being presented.

Thank you for your service.

Regards,

Louise Potter

Jamestown

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From: ggppierce@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 11:51 AM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: CRMC Meeting

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

We are resident of Block Island and am writing to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The Superior Court, one year ago, rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC any former members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve, what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,

Gerard and Gail Pierce
1546 West Side Road
Block Island, RI

From: blockislandjewel [mailto:blockislandjewel@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 6:04 AM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: CRMC members

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a resident of Block Island concerned about the environment and about openness in government to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Peter Gibbons, Center Rd, Block Island

From: Joyce Visceglia [mailto:joycecarmel46@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 4:58 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: Concern about BI’s great salt pond

Dear RI legislators, as a home owner on Block Island for over 20 years, preserving the natural beauty and caring for its environment as a priority, I ask you to reject the current CRMC board. Do not renew their positions nor permit their back room deal to expand the Champlain docks on the Pond. We all need to work together in protecting our environment, locally and globally.
Thank you
Joyce Visceglia
1686 Mohegan Trail
BI, RI
From: Andrew Musits [mailto:amusitsa@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:42 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: S-78, Act on Climate Bill

Dear distinguished legislators,

As a Rhode Island resident and practicing Emergency Medicine Physician, I urge you to support the Act on Climate bill. The public health implications of climate change in Rhode Island must be acknowledged and addressed. As a state, we have acted with great speed and resources to combat COVID 19. On behalf of my family, loved ones, and patients, we must act with the same intensity and fervor to combat climate change. If we do not, the long term health consequences will be devastating, and come much sooner than any of us would like to accept.

Thank you for your attention to the matter.

Andrew Musits, MD MS

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From: Kaufman, Jason [mailto:jkaufman@penguinrandomhouse.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:45 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: I oppose the reappointment of CRMC Members!

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a Block Island part-time resident and responsible citizen who believes in *fairness and ethics* in government.

I have recently read about the shady backroom deal to approve expansion by Champlin's into the Great Salt Pond. This is unethical and most likely illegal, and a disastrous development for the fragile environment of the pond, which we all know and love.

I ask that you please not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve the enormous expansion after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely,
Jason Kaufman
Payne Road, Block Island
From: Haley Crocker [mailto:hcc557@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 5:48 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>; Sen. Euer, Dawn <sen-euer@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: In Solidarity with the Block Island Conservancy

Dear Senator Dawn Euer,

I am writing in solidarity with the Block Island Conservancy in a plea to prevent the re-appointment of members of the Coastal Resource Management Council who "participated in the mediation with Champlin's Marina in December and granted them a significant dock expansion via an illicit memorandum of understanding, unbeknownst to the Town, the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the Block Island Land Trust, or the Block Island Conservancy, all of whom have been involved in numerous court cases to prevent this large-scale expansion into the Great Salt Pond for nearly two decades." (quoted from an announcement from the Conservancy)

It is urgent that we protect this public land from private institutions that weasel their way around the rules for their own benefit, disregarding both the land and the people of Block Island. It is frankly disgusting and heartbreaking to learn about (all too frequent) occurrences like these—especially on this beloved island. As one of "the last great places," Block Island is vulnerable to damaging, shady decisions like this one involving Champlin's—threatening the beauty and the ecology of this precious land.

Please take a stand to protect Block Island—the future of this incredible place (and other places like it) rests in our hands.

Sincerely,
Haley Crocker

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From: Susan Pereira [mailto:suepereira24@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:09 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: Opposition to CRMC voting members

Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee,
I am writing as a long time shareholder of 215 Chapel Street (Island Manor Resort) and a citizen concerned about the environment and openness and fairness in government. I am asking you to NOT approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session, to approve a
huge expansion at Champain's marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted
to deny the application entirely. The Superior Court, one year ago, rejected Champlain's appeal of
that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should deny the reappointment of any
CRMC member who would agree to a private vote to circumvent a publicly denied
notion. Block Island is one of Rhode Island's greatest treasures. It continuously is listed as one
of the last great places on earth. Allowing these 4 people to vote under the cover of darkness
smacks of all that is wrong with government. Please protect this beautiful Island's ecosystem
from greedy predators who seek to destroy for profit.

Thank You
Susan M. Pereira
215 Chapel Street
23/14-15
24/1-2
New Shoreham, RI 02807

From: John Doolittle [mailto:o.zooloo@icloud.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:37 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: Champlain Marina

I am a property owner on Block Island and ask that you not reappoint members who voted
contrary to Supreme Court and prior CRMC decisions. Environment is at risk with expansion and
it give public water to Champlains ,a private for profit organization. It would invade BI mooring
fields where waitlist is 20 years Thank you . John Doolittle of Sheffield Farm on Block Island Sent
from my iPhone

From: Rebecca Gibel [mailto:rebeccagibel@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:58 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegisature.gov>
Subject: I oppose the CRMC reappointments

To whom it may concern,

My name is Rebecca Gibel and I am a voter and a resident at 11 Fisher St in Providence.

I am writing to adamantly oppose reappointing CRMC members Jennifer Cervenka, Joy
Montenaro, Jerry Sahagian, Donald Gomez, and Raymond Coia. Further, I urge you to
appoint new members with environmental expertise who reflect the populations and
interests most likely to be affected by activities on the coast, especially environmental
justice communities and communities of color.

Sincerely,
Dear Senators. I am re-sending my letter below, this time with my full address for your reply. I thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

On 2/2/21 10:32 PM, Carlos Salinas wrote:
Senator Dawn Euer
Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture
State of Rhode Island

Dear Senator Euer and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture:

I write as a friend of all that is beautiful and good about Block Island. I have been a regular visitor since the mid 1990s and eventually would like to settle there with my wife who introduced me to this beautiful, priceless jewel.

I am very troubled about the news that I have read in The Block Island Times and in a recent email from the Block Island Conservancy about blatant irregularities and what appear to be clear violations of due process and the rule of law with regards to the never-ending saga of Champlin's Marina expansion.

Please reject the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, and Joy Montanaro to the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). These four members apparently participated in the mediation with Champlin's Marina in December and granted them a significant dock expansion via an illicit memorandum of understanding, unbeknownst to the Town of New Shoreham, the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the Block Island Land Trust, or the Block Island Conservancy, all of whom have been involved in numerous court cases to prevent this large-scale expansion into the Great Salt Pond for nearly two decades. What could possibly justify this conduct other than a clear intent to violate due process? Please do inform me
if my facts are not accurate.

These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in Block Island’s Great Salt Pond despite the fact that the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. One year ago, the Superior Court of the State of Rhode Island rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now before the Rhode Island Supreme Court. Do you agree with this secret vote?

Please reject the appointment to the CRMC of members who would hide behind closed doors to circumvent what the CRMC had previously decided. Clearly they do not have the interests of the public nor that of the good name - and good work - of the CRMC at heart. I look forward to hearing from you and that due process will be followed. Please protect our beloved Great Salt Pond.

Sincerely,

Carlos Salinas
2310 20th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20009
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony relating to CRMC.

I urgently request that the Committee to defer member reappointments until it has fulfilled its the urgent, overriding responsibility to prevent the destruction of precious and unique Rhode Island environmental resources that has escalated during the last ten years at the hands of a whole generation of Council members, with the conspicuous exception of Chair Jennifer Cervenka. The reappointments will produce the opposite of the attainment of CRMC’s critical mission stated by the General Assembly. It is long overdue to halt “business as usual” at CRMC.

CRMC desperately needs a comprehensive overhaul to bring it into a state of compliance with the law that chartered it in the first place. CRMC’s legislative mission is clearly stated: “the preservation and restoration of ecological systems”, which is to be “the primary guiding principle upon which environmental alteration of the coastal resources will be measured, judged, and regulated.” RI Gen. Laws 46-23-1. In the last ten years the Council has completely inverted its statutory priority by repeatedly and openly steering a course away from those goals and toward doing the bidding of business development no matter how destructive it may be to all of the primary values, that expressly include preserving the “unique visual character of the Rhode Island coast,” maintaining “the diversity of plant species and types,” demonstrating that the alteration or activity “will not result in significant impacts on the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life,” demonstrating that the alteration “will not result in significant conflicts with water dependent uses and activities such as recreational boating, fishing, swimming…,” and finally demonstrating that there is a genuine “need for the proposed activity or alteration.” RICR 650-2-1.3.1(A).
For some reason, even the Rhode Island Constitution has been cast aside. Article I, Section 17, states that “the submerged lands of the state are impressed with a public trust and ...the state is responsible for the protection of the public’s interest in these lands.” CRMC’s behavior contravenes every word of this pronouncement. It places the public last and big business first. CRMC’s actions amount to the forfeiture of public trust resources for private gain. Most of those actions are irreparable, in practice if not in theory.

In a plethora of recent and pending cases CRMC has repudiated all of those mandates. Imagine declaring that a cove assiduously protected and enjoyed must be dredged at the behest of a huge national corporation so that a marina that has thrived for more than a century, in harmony with its neighbors, must avoid having to service the small fraction of largest boats “on the tide.” I am somewhat of an expert on the environmental effects of dredging. There is no human activity more environmentally destructive than dredging. CRMC facilitated it. CRMC circumvented numerous legal rules to expedite it. CRMC hauled forty-one bushels of healthy quahogs out of the cove to create a marine desert for the dredger. What CRMC member could live with that blood in his hands?

Thus, selecting CRMC appointees with great care and educating them as to the law and the coastal environmental science—and ethics should be number one, along with a complete overhaul of the state agency that has deviated so far from its mission.

CRMC is a particularly difficult body to assemble and control because, by definition, it does not possess its own experts. The enabling laws made clear that CRMC should reach out to other agencies, state and federal, for that expertise. It has not done that. It has arrogantly proceeded without critical knowledge and expertise. This must stop. In my long environmental law career I have seen many agencies that lose their way, but none as utterly deviant as this one.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford Whitman
Dear Chair Euer and Members of the Committee:

I write as a [PLEASE CHOOSE THE BEST OPTION FOR YOURSELF: resident of Block Island/concerned citizen/Rhode Islander concerned about the environment/Rhode Island concerned about openness in government…] to ask that you not vote to approve the reappointment of Raymond Coia, Donald Gomez, Jerry Sahagian, or Joy Montanaro to the CRMC. These members voted in a private, executive session to approve a huge expansion of Champlin’s Marina in the Great Salt Pond after the CRMC had twice voted in public to deny the application entirely. The superior court one year ago rejected Champlin’s appeal of that denial. The case is now in the Supreme Court. You should not approve the appointment to the CRMC of members who would agree to vote in a private meeting to approve what the CRMC had previously denied.

Sincerely, YOUR NAME YOUR ADDRESS (PREFERABLY ONE IN RHODE ISLAND)

Steve Ahlquist  Richard Berry  Susan Bush
Katherine Albertson  Justin Berry  Dave Cadwell
John Alexander  Jonathan Berry  Jessica Cahill
Gwendolyn Alker  Amy Bevins  Caitlin Carey
Tina Allaire  Samuel Bird  V Carter
Carol Anderson  Kate Bird  Mary Cassidy
Laurie J. Anderson  Kate Bird  Dianne Cassidy
Elizabeth Andrews  Sarah Blake  Carrah Castellanos
Madeline Andrews  Marilyn Bogdanffy  Carmen Castellanos
Katherine Andrews  Marilyn Bogdanffy  Kevin Castner
Jomarie Andrews  Doreen Boschwitz  Logan Chase
Carol Appleby  Laura Bourne  Lori Cirone
Nathan Aragao  Casey Bourret  R. Closter
Gordon Armour  Tracey Boyajian  Daton Cohen
Cheryl Aubin  Todd Breitling  Margie Comings
Alexandra Austin  Nancy Breitling  Bill Comings
Anne Auwarter  Thomas Brielmann  Sam Coren
Gail Baco  Wendy Brokaw  Shannon Cotter-Marsella
Sarah Bacon  Jonathan Brotherhood  Donna Coughlin
Katie Bacon  Alison Brown  Don Coxe
Michael Ballard  Jeremy Brown  David Coyne
Cheryle Barbato  Jan Brown  Bill Crane
Maureen Barney  Alice Brownstein  Lindy Cricket
Britt Barney  Mike BrownStein  Bruce Crocker
Melissa Baucom  Euan Bryson  Sam Crocker
Lisa Beck  Margaret Buchet  Jennifer Crossan
Gillian Beebe  Peg Bull  Marie Crouch
Faye Benedict  Ben Burbank  We Cully Jr
Carolyn Benjamin  Susan Bush  Craig Curtis
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<td>John Tobin</td>
<td>Steven Weinberg</td>
<td>Block Island Residents Assn.</td>
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