



State Senate
— **District 38** —

**September Newsletter
& CRMC Public Hearing Alert**





Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Rhode Island recently hosted the Council of State Governments (CSG) - East Coast regional conference. State legislators from all over the East Coast came to Providence for three days. With breakout panels on everything from housing & transportation to healthcare, education & oversight, we had time to learn from others and reflect. We don't often get the opportunity to look back on our past sessions and discuss how to improve things. A couple points that were brought up:

- **Accountability & Oversight:** A lot of fanfare is put into passing bills that create new programs, but we don't put as much emphasis on evaluating/reforming existing programs. In my view, we should be putting just as much effort into making existing government functions (including everyday things like getting a permit or street maintenance) work better for people, and evaluating them on a semi-regular basis. The panelists suggested incorporating 'user-centered design' and summarizing our constituent calls/emails to see what issues keep popping up. We also shared common frustrations with oversight hearings, in which we attempt to 1) do fact finding and 2) hold agencies accountable. We shared suggestions for how to make those hearings more effective. **As we**

head into the fall and start putting together priorities for 2026, please email me your ideas on how we could improve our states' programs or agencies: sen-gu@rilegislature.gov

- **Transportation:** I attended this panel because I've been working on extending commuter rail from Connecticut to Rhode Island. Several other Senators from RI and southern CT also spoke passionately about this project. We were able to connect with federal Dept of Transportation officials and will be talking to them more to make the case for funding this project.

Below: State Senators and Reps got to be torch-bearers during a Waterfire event held during the Council of State Governments (CSG East) in Providence



**CRMC Public Hearing on Spring Ave
Extension: September 15, 2025**



State of Rhode Island
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver H. Stedman Government Center
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CRMC ROW File No.: 2020-11-084 Hearing Date: September 15, 2025

In accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the "Administrative Procedures Act", (Chapter 42-35 et. seq. of the General Laws of Rhode Island), and the Rules and Regulations of the Coastal Resources Management Council, a hearing will be held to receive comments from interested parties concerning possible designation of public rights of ways to the tidal waters of the State relative to Title 46, Chapter 23, of Section 6E, of the Rhode Island General Laws of 1956, as amended.

Said Rights of Way is described as follows:

2020-11-084 Spring Avenue Extension in Westerly, RI.

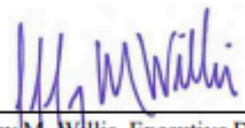
The hearing will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Westerly Town Hall in the Council Chambers, 45 Broad Street, Westerly RI.

Parties interested in/or concerned with the above-mentioned matter are invited to be present and/or represented by counsel at the above-mentioned time and place. This meeting place is accessible to individuals with disabilities. The meeting location is accessible to handicapped persons. Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should contact CRMC offices at 401-783-3370 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

The file may be seen in the office of the Coastal Resources Management Council, Oliver H. Stedman Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Wakefield, Rhode Island, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Oral statements will be heard and recorded and statements may be submitted to the hearing officers at the time of hearing.

Signed this 8th day of September, 2025.



Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director
Coastal Resources Management Council

Public Hearing Alert

Want to have a say in shoreline access in Westerly? The Coastal Resources Management Council is holding a hearing on **Mon, Sept. 15, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Westerly Town Hall (45 Broad St.)** about possible designation of the Spring Avenue Extension as a public right-of-way to the water. Come share your thoughts!

My bill to tackle Crypto-Currency ATM scams was signed into law!

SIGNED INTO LAW!

MY BILL TO REGULATE
CRYPTO-ATM'S AND
PREVENT SCAMS WAS
SIGNED INTO LAW!

- REQUIRES
DISCLOSURES,
- REFUND POLICY FOR
SCAM VICTIMS
- MAXIMUM DAILY
TRANSACTION LIMITS



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**VICTORIA
GU**

State Senate
District 38

After a two-year effort, Representative Casimiro and I, in collaboration with AARP Rhode Island, passed this important law to protect Rhode Islanders from scams exploiting cryptocurrency ATMs. We've had a number of reports in Westerly and all over Rhode Island that people lost tens of thousands of dollars after being tricked into sending cash through these machines. The most important consumer protections in this new law include a daily transaction limit and refund policy for scam/fraud victims who make a police report within 90 days of being scammed. The new law also requires operators to register, provide live customer service, disclose fees and risks, and issue paper receipts. These safeguards will help keep Rhode Islanders' hard-earned money safe from scammers.

Read the full press release at [this link](#)

Learn more about Crypto-ATM scams

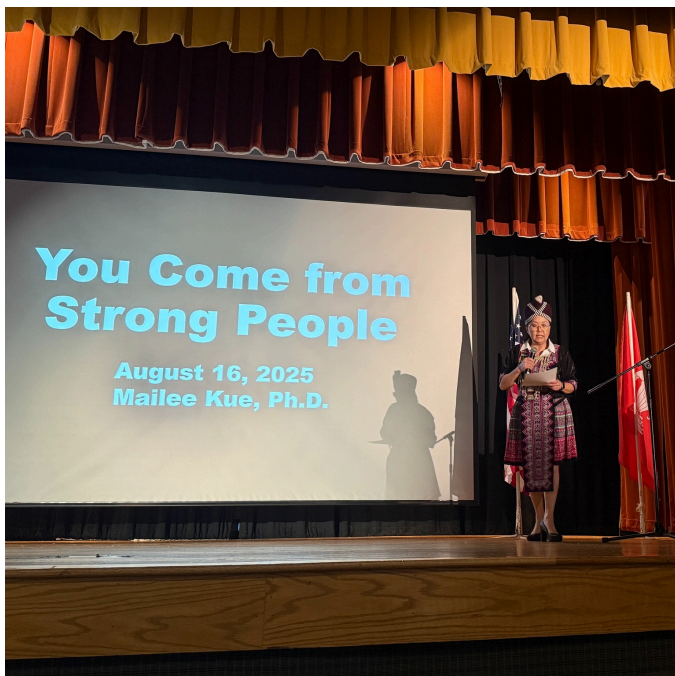
Monthly Westerly Station / Commuter Rail Working Group Meetings

**Next meeting scheduled for: Monday September 22nd, 10am at Westerly Library
2nd Floor**

Thank you to everyone who has sent letters so far! For those who haven't, use this form to send a letter to Gov McKee and your Congress Member (you can also customize the letter): <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/asking-congressmembers-to-support-westerly-station-upgrade-for-commuter-rail>

Celebrating Westerly Hospital's 100th Anniversary

Here's to 100 years of healing, care, and resilience at [Westerly Hospital](#)! The celebration included the unveiling of a special timeline, showcasing the hospital's growth through the years. From its first surgery and humble beginnings in 1925 to today, Westerly Hospital has always stood as a cornerstone of care in our community. Grateful to the staff, nurses, physicians, volunteers, and neighbors—past and present—who made these 100 years possible. Congratulations, and here's to the next century of care!



Celebrating Hmong History in RI

I was honored to speak at the 50th Hmong Commemoration Event at [Bryant University](#).

Professor Mailee Kue's powerful presentation, "You Come From Strong People," reminded us of the strength and sacrifice at the heart of Hmong history, including soldiers who fought with and assisted the US in the Vietnam war. Many



became political refugees and settled in Rhode Island about 50 years ago. Learn more about a Hmong Rhode Islander family's story at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMOknR_hvj4

Supporting the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association

Proud to award a legislative grant to the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association during the Tomaquag Museum's Traditional Ecological Tour. 🌿🛶

From learning about the traditional uses of plants to exploring the Pawcatuck River by kayak, this event beautifully connected culture, history, and our environment. Grateful for all who help protect and celebrate our natural resources.



Labor Day in Rhode Island

Happy Labor Day! On September 1st we celebrated the working people who keep Rhode Island moving forward, and the strength of our unions that fight for fair wages, safe workplaces, and respect on the job.

Let's keep building a Rhode Island where every worker is valued and supported.



RI State Senator
Victoria Gu, District 38

Wavemaker Fellowship opens applications for Education, S.T.E.M. & Primary Care

Rhode Island just opened up a new round of applications for the Wavemaker Fellowship, a program that helps recent grads in STEM, design, healthcare, and education pay off their student loans. If you're accepted, you can get up to \$6,000 a year in refundable tax credits for as many as four years.

Last year, the RI General Assembly dedicated an additional \$500,000 specifically for primary care providers to address Rhode Island's shortage of doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

Applications are due by October 13.

More information, including frequently asked questions and the application, are available online at wavemaker.commerceri.com.