

In regard to Great Bay and its community,

My name is Bryan Cassidy of Crommets Creek. I am a Durham resident located on Dame Road. However, home lies by Crommets Creek, and this has bridged my love and connection to Great Bay, Little Bay, and the seacoast region.

I am writing today in opposition of the proposed Seacoast Reliability Project by Eversource. I am writing in lack of research, and lack of science, I am truthfully under qualified. I feel quite small in status and stature in having an effect in this project. However, I believe we cannot speak of best practices or actions that protect the bay in this project without the option of no action. If this project is passed, what will it ask of this community in 50 years, 100 years, 200 years? The Bay, the sea that rises into it twice a day is the only member of this community that will forever know. How can we listen, how can we make choices that honor what brings the most life to this community?

What I share is an intimacy, a belonging, and a different way of knowing this place. I rest by the creek, and paddle as much as I can under Crommets Creek bridge into the vastness of the bay. I saunter the woods and trails where the sea greets land. I bike the roads where power lines will be built, where trees will be cleared. I prune trees and tend gardens for neighbors along the bay. My work, my life belongs to the community, and this place. In my opinion, the proposed Seacoast Reliability Project takes advantage of my way of being and perhaps the well-being of those who live most intimately along the bay that I have come to know. It takes advantage of those who have come before us; I believe Evelyn Browne would agree.

I ask for whom does this project benefit? For whom amongst this place does not have the opportunity to share their voice? I believe in the more than human world and through patience and persistence, I know where the Heron sleeps, where Canada Geese lay their eggs, and I know when the tide is rising even when I am far from the coast. For whom will speak for all the beings of this place?

In closing, today is my nephew's birthday, October 11th. Jack, turns two today. I imagine him smiling with his parents, enjoying the celebration of life. I write most for Jack and all future generations for the hope that they may love, care, and find belonging to this place as I have. I dream of generations paddling into the Bay, watching the Heron swoop in silence on an autumn dusk, I dream they may grow healthy, healthy with the bay and feel at home here.

With care and thanks,

Bryan