

---

# OPINION

The Newport Daily News

Albert K. Sherman Jr., publisher  
Sheila Mulfowney, executive editor  
Gary Ruff, opinion page editor

"Our view" represents the opinion of the editorial board, above

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008 ◆ PAGE A11

---

## READERS' LETTERS

### Guest View misrepresented water coalition's positions, capabilities

A recent commentary by Bill Falcone (Guest View, May 14) opened with a succinct history of the Water Resources Board and a forceful argument for its continued independence from the state Department of Environmental Management. Unfortunately, it also misrepresents the Coalition for Water Security's position and its recognized capabilities in working to help shape more effective management of Rhode Island's water supply for the future.

A look at the Rhode Island Shared Water Resources Act, being considered by the General Assembly and supported by the coalition, shows that the coalition favors an active and effective Water Resources Board. The coalition does not recommend rolling the board into DEM as Mr. Falcone

#### **A look at the Rhode Island Shared Water Resources Act ... shows that the coalition favors an active and effective Water Resources Board.**

incorrectly implies. Rather, the coalition has raised concerns about this proposal at Statehouse hearings twice already this year. The Shared Water Resources Act respects the distinct roles of the existing state agencies and creates a system that will protect our environment and allow water for all necessary uses without creating any new bureaucracy.

Mr. Falcone also questions the expertise of the members of the coalition. Representatives of the coalition's 19 member organ-

izations — Clean Water Action, Save The Bay, Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Trout Unlimited and the Conservation Law Foundation, among others — have been consistently involved in statewide water issues with water supply professionals, legislators, farmers and all others who are trying to improve the management of our shared water resources.

The Coalition for Water Security is working with all parties to provide appropriate solutions to the challenges facing Rhode Island's water supply and to move the state toward a well-managed, reliable, management system for the sake of our environment and our economy.

**Sheila Dormody**, coordinator,  
Coalition for Water Security, Providence