

Chris O'Brien

From: Al Elson <al@stripermarina.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 5:22 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Speaker Shekarchi, Chairman Abney, Representative Carson and Representative Spears,

I'm writing to oppose House Bill 6256 "Protect Rhode Island's Marine Jobs and Small Businesses" that proposes to repeal the property and sales tax exemption for boats. As the Owner/Operator of Striper Marina Inc. in Barrington RI for the last 33 years, I'm well aware of the enormous contribution that recreational boating makes to RI. Although recreational boating may be perceived as a luxury, it contributes an extraordinary amount of ancillary services, jobs and tax revenue in the form of boat maintenance, retail, hospitality, finance, engineering, boat building, insurance, fuel services, and brokerage.

We proudly proclaim ourselves the Ocean State, and eliminating a long-standing and successful tax policy is counterproductive to our identity and economy.

Please consider your local businesses and marine professionals by opposing House Bill 6256.

With gratitude,

Alfred Elson