

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Bob Hamel <bhamel5386@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 8:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Dear Committee Members,

I've been a recreational boater in Rhode Island for more than 60 years. I saw what happened to the Marine Industry back in the 90s with the Luxury Tax... it almost collapsed! Well, the Marine Industry has come back and is probably one of the most valuable/viable industries in the state employing thousands.

I own a 35' sailboat and a 22 " motorboat and spend about \$16K a year on yard fees, fuel, State Registration, insurance, contractors, supplies, and restaurants. I'm not handy so I have a diesel mechanic, outboard mechanic, fiberglass repair guy, electrician, bottom painter..etc that I feel I should claim as dependents.

Most boaters are not wealthy yacht owners but boating is our passion and major source of recreation. Additional taxes, fees and financial burdens would certainly give me cause to get rid of one of my boats and the expense of owning it.

I urge you to look at spending cuts in our huge state budget rather than further burden the taxpayers and risk damaging one of our last viable industries.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Hamel  
859 Hope Street  
Bristol, RI