

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **House Bill 6256**, which proposes the implementation of both sales and property taxes on boats in Rhode Island.

This legislation would have a damaging impact on our state's marine industry, which supports thousands of jobs and plays a vital role in our coastal economy. Taxing boats would discourage ownership, reduce business for local marinas, service providers, and tourism-related companies, and ultimately drive marine activity to neighboring states with more favorable tax policies.

In addition, the **cost of living has already increased across the board**—from groceries to fuel to everyday essentials. Enjoying time on the water with our family boat is one of the few recreational activities we can still afford. **If new taxes are imposed, this may no longer be possible for many families.** We already pay taxes on our homes, vehicles, and more. **Please do not add boats to that list.**

I urge you to **reject H6256** and continue to support policies that protect working families and Rhode Island's marine economy.

Sincerely,
Briana Aucoin

North Kingstown, RI