

Dear House Finance Committee

Attn:

Rhode Island House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

I personally spend over \$50,000 annually in RI on boating related expenses, including dockage, storage, service and fuel. That does not include money spent at numerous Rhode Island stores, restaurants etc while enjoying our boat. It is likely that with an onerous property tax for boat owners, I and many of my friends with boats will be priced out of the lifestyle, and CERTAINLY would be priced out of purchasing another boat in the state. Boaters from across New England keep and register boats in Rhode Island vs their home states currently. How many millions of dollars are spent in Rhode Island as a result of their keeping boats here? How much revenue will be lost to countless RI businesses as a result of boating activities decreasing due to this tax? Boating is already an expensive activity and getting more so. I know that this could be the last straw for many boat owners.

PLEASE vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry and negatively impact so many related businesses.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mehrmann

Boat: Mermaid, RI Reg# 1093684  
(Hailport Wickford Shipyard)