

Chris O'Brien

From: Cam Lewis <c.lewis@osjl.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:17 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: BILL H6256

Dear House Finance Committee.

As a lifelong Rhode Island resident and boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will not be a new revenue stream but rather the demise of boating and marine related businesses with our State. It will drive marine related employers and businesses to other states, threaten many local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Rhode Island is known as the Ocean State and has a deep maritime history. Many people move and live here because of our abundant access to fishing, boating, sailing and some of the best seafood in the Nation. While it's true that there are many "Yachts" located within our State, a majority of these are registered out of state in places like Delaware and Florida. Your bill will do nothing to these vessels.

However, your bill will most likely have a devastating effect on the average RI citizens. The average Rhode Island boater is more likely to own an older, smaller boat used for family recreation or an older fishing vessel they painstakingly maintain to earn a living. These are not the big yachts you see in our Marinas. These citizens spend more money maintaining their boats, supporting local businesses, than the boat is probably worth. I know, because I am one.

My 26 foot sailboat is over 40 years old and probably worth between \$4000-\$6000. Using the high value estimate, a 7% tax would net the State about \$420.00. But my yearly spend just to maintain my boat far exceeds that. I pay the town of North Kingstown a yearly mooring fee. I support a local marina that launches my boat in the spring and hauls it in the fall. I pay for yearly maintenance on my mooring. I purchase miscellaneous items from West Marine in Warwick and the Marine Consignment Store in Wickford. I use a local maintenance shop to maintain my small 2 HP outboard. All these purchases, supporting local business, are in danger of going away if the State passes H6256.

Bill H6256 is epitome of Rhode Island cutting off its nose to spite its face.

Please vote NO on H6256.

Sincerely
Cameron Lewis
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