

Chris O'Brien

From: Cody Hartley <chartley@shmarinas.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:24 AM
To: Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; House Finance Committee
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 6256 – A Threat to Rhode Island's Marine Economy and Way of Life

May 5th, 2025

Dear Representative Solomon and Members of the House Committee,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to House Bill 6256, which proposes to impose both sales and property taxes on boats in the state of Rhode Island. This bill presents a serious threat not only to our state's economy but also to our heritage, culture, and the livelihoods of countless Rhode Islanders.

Rhode Island has long been known as the Ocean State, not just in name but in spirit. Our connection to the water runs deep. Boating, fishing, and access to the shoreline are not luxuries here — they are woven into the fabric of who we are. These industries are central to our identity, our communities, and our economy. From commercial fishermen and marine technicians to charter operators, boat builders, marinas, and seasonal waterfront businesses, thousands of Rhode Islanders rely on a vibrant marine economy to make a living.

Since the repeal of the boat sales tax in 1993, Rhode Island has positioned itself as a leader in the marine trades — not by accident, but by recognizing the value of policies that support water-based industries. That forward-thinking decision helped grow our marine sector, attract boaters from across the region, and sustain jobs year-round. House Bill 6256 would undo decades of progress by making Rhode Island less competitive and driving marine business to neighboring states with more favorable tax policies.

Let's be clear: this bill will not just affect yacht owners. It will ripple through our economy, hurting small businesses, undermining working waterfronts, and threatening thousands of jobs. It sends the wrong message to those who want to invest in our state and risks diminishing the accessibility of the water for everyday Rhode Islanders.

I urge you to protect Rhode Island's marine industry, economy, and cultural identity by rejecting House Bill 6256. Let's continue to lead with smart, proven policies that preserve both economic opportunity and our way of life on the water.

I vote NO on H6256

Sincerely,
Cody Hartley



Cody Hartley

Yard Operations Manager

Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay

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