

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee

As a lifelong Rhode islander who grew up near the 400 miles of coastline we enjoy, I was born and raised to love boats! It quickly became a staple of my life both personally and professionally. I have witnessed how not having taxes on boats helps this state firsthand. From yachts like those than belong to John Kerry and Billy Joel to our local quahoggers and fisherman. This state benefits greatly from this. At the many marinas I worked at as a kid and adult I was able to witness boats being purchased and kept here in RI due to our current tax exemption. We would rent boat slips and winter storage along with selling products and employing people to take care of these boats and supplies. The taxes from those items would benefit RI as well. If we lose this not only will we lose the retail tax sales dollars but it will directly affect the marinas and marine trades here in RI. It is our last standing benefit for a state that ranks 50 out of 50 for small businesses.

On the personal front my home was just re assessed, my taxes are going up. The cost of electricity is egregious and going up considerably, home heating is almost unaffordable, you don't get tax credit when trading in a truck (the only state left that does this) and now it's considering taxing boats??? The Ocean State??? Really?!?!

I am disappointed at the sponsors. This state has shown enough already with the Washington bridge. It doesn't need more money and it doesn't need to destroy the marine trades. I hope this committee has more common sense than the bill sponsors and votes down this legislation, keeping it from even leaving the committee.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this

Your Tax Paying Constituents,

Daniel and Alicia Pacheco

Sent from my iPhone