

Chris O'Brien

From: David Appolonia <davidmappolonia@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 6:10 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Bill H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boat owner and fisherman, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

The Rhode Island marine industry experienced significant growth after the repeal of sales tax on boats in 1993. This policy change has been credited with attracting more boaters, boosting employment, and fostering a thriving environment for skilled boat builders and professionals. The no-tax policy extends to not only the purchase of boats but also related services like dockage, repairs, and mooring fees.

Here's why this policy has been so successful:

Incentivizes buying and keeping boats in Rhode Island:

The lack of sales tax makes Rhode Island an attractive destination for boat owners.

Boosts local economy:

The marine industry in Rhode Island has seen significant growth, leading to job creation and economic activity.

Attracts skilled professionals:

The thriving marine environment has attracted and retained skilled workers in the boat-building and related industries.

Promotes tourism:

The presence of a large and vibrant boating community can attract tourists and further boost the local economy.

This is one of the few "economic bright spots" in Rhode Island and we should not go backwards.

Sincerely,

David M. Appolonia
South Kingstown, Rhode Island