

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Frechette, Jay <JFrechette@starshep.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose House Bill 6256 – Protect Rhode Island's Marine Jobs and Small Businesses

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a business in your district and a proud part of Rhode Island's recreational marine trades industry, I'm writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 6256, which recommends repealing the property and sales tax exemption for boats.

Its repeal would reduce demand not only for boats in the Ocean State, but also for services like storage, repair, insurance, financing, safety equipment, supplies, fuel and more. These interconnected services sustain local jobs and small businesses like mine. Eliminating the exemption would destabilize this network and directly impact our ability to retain and hire skilled workers.

It's also important to recognize that boaters are major contributors to our local economy, spending significantly on shoreside products and services such as food, restaurants, groceries, local retail, and tourist attractions. This spending supports a wide array of businesses far beyond the docks and boatyards, amplifying the economic impact of Rhode Island's marine industry.

This is not a tax on luxury, it's a setback for working Rhode Islanders and the thousands of jobs supported by our marine industry. Rhode Island's current tax policy gives us a critical edge over neighboring states like Massachusetts and Connecticut, helping attract boaters, investment and year-round business to our shores. Repealing this exemption would erase that competitive advantage, driving business elsewhere and jeopardizing the livelihoods of families and small businesses in our community.

Please consider your local businesses and workers by opposing House Bill 6256.

Sincerely,  
Jay Frechette  
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**Jay Frechette, CIC**  
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