

Chris O'Brien

From: Jeff Johnstone <jeffj@jboats.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 5:23 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Concerned Rhode Island Boater

To: Rhode Island House Finance Committee
Fr: Jeff Johnstone

As president and co-owner of J/Boats, a Rhode Island-based sailboat company since 1978, I strongly urge you to reject the recently introduced House Bill 6256 imposing new taxes on boats.

I believe this bill would cause irreparable harm to the boating community, as well as both the marine and hospitality industries who serve the boaters. Most boaters in the State are not wealthy, so they would bear the burden of new taxes. Those that are rich are capable and willing to move their boats elsewhere to avoid taxes.

Thanks to favorable tax policies since 1991, Rhode Island has become the most sought-after state in New England to keep one's boat. This has translated into significant tax revenue from services being provided to boaters including boat storage, maintenance, upgrades, provisioning, housing, restaurants, etc.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Johnstone
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