

Chris O'Brien

From: John Alexander <jwa@mallardcreekcap.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 6:51 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Concerned Rhode Island Boater

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose House Bill 6256 and urge the committee to reject this bill. This tax would harm the marine industry, local businesses, and our boating community.

I spend much of my summer in Connecticut waters but always Rhode Island marinas for winter storage and off season work. I have done this for 23 years. My boat is registered in Rhode Island. Over the years I have spent a great deal of money in Rhode Island. Why? Because there are NO TAXES!! If you pass a boat tax. The state will lose my business. It would be more convenient for me to go to Conn. , but I go to RI because there are no taxes on the boating industry.

May I look to another example of what happens when boat taxes are imposed. In the early days of the Clinton Administration, congress passed a luxury tax on all new yachts that cost \$50,000 or more. What happened???? Well, Over 120 boat builders went out of business and the total amount of the taxes collected did not pay for the administration of collecting the tax.

Two years later, the tax was repealed. BUT the damage had been done. Please don't make this same mistake. Rhode Island's boating industry thrives because there are NO TAXES!!!! I promise you it is vulnerable.

Respectfully submitted

John Alexander.

Sent from my iPhone