

Chris O'Brien

From: Kenneth Booth <kenbbooth@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:28 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

I am opposed to this legislation which would impose property and sales tax on boat ownership. It would be almost impossible to assess a fair value on a vessel without individual inspection of each. Specialized marine surveyors are necessary to ascertain the condition and subsequent value of a vessel. That level of expertise does not sit within the local municipality or State tax offices. Many commercial fishermen; shelfishermen, potters, and rod reelers for example, own and operate small boats well under the 5 ton qualifying weight for exemption. The small boat fishing fleet will be heavily impacted by the imposition of property and sales taxes as proposed. Rhode Islands commercial fishermen are struggling under economic and regulatory burdens. This would be another nail in the coffin.

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