

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Steven Schall <steven.schall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:46 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.  
**Cc:** Rep. Spears, Tina L.  
**Subject:** I Oppose H6256 – Don't Tax Boats!

Dear Rep Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boating enthusiast, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Steven Schall

Block Island, RI

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Arlow Sampson <wanderlust\_bristol@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:50 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** HR 6256

I strongly oppose HR 6256.

Arlow Sampson  
Pawtucket

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Joyce Sullivan <jmsulli17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** No boat taxes

Hi this bill is not taking into consideration the hit the RI economy will take upon passage of this bill H6256. This state eliminated property taxes on cars now to only to charge boat owners.

There is a reason these taxes were eliminated in the past to support the marine business. This bill doesn't just affect boat owners but all those that work in the marine and seafood industries as well as much of the tourist industry. Especially at a time when there already is so much uncertainty about the economy.

This bill needs to be voted down and keep the RI economy stable

Thank you for your time.

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** KEVIN SLATTERY <kevinslattery@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Vote no

You saved the boating industry when you eliminated the tax!  
You will destroy the industry if you reintroduce the tax.

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Jeff Spear <jeffreyspear@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 5:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee - As a Rhode Island Boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt all Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state; threatening local jobs; and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Spear  
Saunderstown, RI

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**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** GLENN SYLVIA <glenns329@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:00 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

"Dear House Finance Committee,  
As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.  
Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs,  
and negatively impact our economy.  
Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's Marine industry.  
Glenn Sylvia  
Little Compton

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Renata Stradone <renata.veiga.91711@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:04 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please vote NO on H625

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs, and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

**Renata Stradone**

E Greenwich

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Mike Shea <mike.shea@redoaksourcing.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Shea, Lynn  
**Subject:** NO on Boat Tax- I oppose Bill H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, long term resident and long term taxpayer, I **strongly oppose** H6256.

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

Please vote **NO** on **H6256**.

Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Mike & Lynn Shea  
82 Gilbert Stuart Drive  
Warwick, RI 02818



**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Dennis Shafer <dshafer27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 6:19 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Boat taxes

Do not initiate a tax on boats. The marine industry in RI is one of the most important industries in the state and contributes far more than any tax revenue. This bill would devastate the industry.

Dennis Shafer  
14 West Street  
Newport RI

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** John Smith <jdhsmith4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Don't tax boats. Our economy, recreation, and culture are based on the sea and boats

John Smith

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Adam Smith <asmith1@mosesbrown.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:13 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** NO to H6256 proposed bill - NO BOAT TAX

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.  
Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Adam Smith  
Barrington / Bristol

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Mark Stephens <tenacity1212@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:18 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Mark and Suzette Stephens  
Bristol, RI

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** psabo@camacheeyachtyard.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:27 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** psabo@camacheeyachtyard.com  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee - As a family owned boatyard owner and a Rhode Island Boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt all Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state; threatening local jobs; and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Peter S. Sabo  
North Kingstown  
President  
Camachee Yacht Yard  
psabo@camacheeyachtyard.com

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Carole Ann Saracco <carole@cgmarketing.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 6:44 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Boat tax

Dear House Finance Committee,

PLEASE!! As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy. Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry. Sincerely,  
Carole Ann Saracco Cranston  
Sent from my iPhone

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Roger Shepley <rdshepley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** no tax on boats!

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

I am a Massachusetts resident. I have kept my 42' sailboat in Bristol RI for 12 years, solely because of the tax advantage, and will promptly move it to Massachusetts if this bill is passed.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Roger D Shepley  
617-312-1095

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** ABBI SEWARD <riracer@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose House Bill H6256

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a Rhode Island boater and constituent. I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 6256. Reinstating a sales tax on boats and related services would significantly impact everyday Rhode Islanders by making boat ownership less accessible and placing unnecessary strain on a vital sector of our economy. This proposal would drive boaters and marine businesses to neighboring states with more favorable tax policies, resulting in the loss of jobs and revenue across our coastal communities. The current exemption has helped build a thriving marine industry that benefits marinas, service providers, local clubs, and waterfront towns alike.

Please vote no on H6256 and continue to support Rhode Island's marine economy.

Abbi Seward  
Warwick, RI

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)



**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Terry Steelman <tds95wh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.  
Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Terry D. Steelman  
Bristol, RI  
Sent from my iPhone

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Thomas s <sullivanmarineelectrical@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:10 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 and Protect Rhode Island's Marine Economy

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I strongly encourage you to vote against H6256 bill to remove the exemption for sale and excise tax on boats. I grew up boating and sailing in Rhode Island and went to New England Tech and now own a marine business in this state. I find the state to have a thriving marine industry that encourages growth here. The boat tax exemption is working and I can imagine why you would want to take away an incentive for the industry to continue to thrive.

There are over 1300 marine related jobs in RI which surely will be affected by less boaters. Less boaters would be the outcome of imposing yet another expense on top of the money that they pump into the economy by hiring a detailer to prep the boat for the season, a painter to sand and paint the bottom, a mechanic to service, winterize and make repairs to the engine, paying a marina for storage for the off season, paying for dockage/mooring, putting fuel in the boat, upgrading equipment, keeping safety equipment up to date, and of course having to have their boat fixed the day before the fourth of July.

Many boaters who are well off financially are constantly weighing the cost of owning a boat vs how much time they have available to enjoy it. Any added expense could be the straw that broke the camel's back.

There is also a large percentage of boaters in the lower income levels that do what they can to make it work, to get their families out of the bay. Many of these people can very easily be pushed out of affording to own a boat.

Another group is the transient boats that are constantly on the move, usually moving up and down the coast seasonally. Many of these boats call Rhode Island home for the summer months and plan big upgrades and major repairs around having the work done here in RI. Many of these boats are registered in RI, they will simply register the boat somewhere else to avoid any added tax. Then that will be the start of these owners to start looking at other destinations and as the marine industry in RI slows down, they will go elsewhere to send their money.

I strongly urge you to oppose this legislation and allow the marine industry to continue to thrive

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Thomas Sullivan  
Sullivan Marine Electrical and Electronics LLC  
(401) 439-6381

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** STUR-DEE BOAT <heidi@stur-deeboat.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 7:17 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

No tax on boats!!!!

Heidi Reid

Stur-Dee Boat Co.  
1117 Bulgarmarsh Rd.  
Tiverton, RI 02878  
508-733-7101  
[www.stur-deeboat.com](http://www.stur-deeboat.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/SturDeeBoatCo>

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**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Steve Santilli <ssant27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry. ♡

Sincerely,

Steve Santilli  
Coventry

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Patricia Small <psmallrn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:43 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Tax on boats

No tax on boats. Are you aware what it will do to the industry????  
Sent from my iPhone

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Carin Salonia <carinagsalonia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** OPPOSE H6256 - Don't Tax Boats - A Plea from Local Boaters

To Whom Will Make Decisions on the Future of Rhode Island Boating:

As Commodore, I want to highlight the growing concerns surrounding increased taxation on local yacht club members and the broader at large boating community.

While taxes are often framed as a means to maintain waterways and infrastructure, the burden they place on community-based clubs and individual boaters, including small business owners, could ultimately push local enthusiasts out of the water in favor of large private companies with the financial resources to absorb the costs.

Local yacht clubs are more than just recreational hubs—they play a vital role in maintaining responsible boating culture, providing education, and fostering environmental stewardship. However, rising taxation threatens to make membership and boat ownership financially unfeasible for many individuals, and locals in Rhode Island, and particularly those who rely on these clubs for affordable access to the waterways. Meanwhile, private companies—whether they're investment groups or luxury marina developers—are in a far better position to navigate these costs, often leading to the commercialization of what were once public and community-driven spaces. This shift risks turning local waters into profit-driven ventures rather than accessible, shared resources.

The taxes will have a devastating impact on local Rhode Islanders – and their businesses, their long-term family traditions and enjoyment. Over time, higher taxes could diminish participation in local clubs, weaken long-standing maritime traditions, and restrict access for everyday boaters who are already facing increased costs in fuel, dockage, and maintenance. If we want to protect the future of local yachting and ensure that waterways remain open for community use rather than corporate interests, we must advocate for fair taxation policies that recognize the value of individual, small business owners and social yacht clubs. These institutions should remain places where people can gather, learn, and enjoy the water without excessive financial barriers.

In the end, taxation will negatively impact local businesses, individual access and local yacht clubs from the enjoyment of the resources in our communities. We **MUST** not allow this additional tax to be passed which will directly impact on our residents and visitors to Rhode Island and only incentivize large investments presence to price all of us out of our waters. This ultimately changes the landscape of who we are as a state, and as a people using the waterways of Rhode Island.

Sincerely & Respectfully,

Carin Salonia

Commodore, Point Judith Yacht Club

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** GRACE SMITH <jg.smith1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 8:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats  
**Attachments:** No on H6256.pdf

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Walt <walterschultz59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:55 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Boat Tax

To whom it may concern,

Please do not bring back the boat tax laws. It was progressive thinking that repealed the taxes. This helped the RI boating industry as well as the many people that have purchased boats & services. Rhode Island has a long & storied maritime history.

Please do not bring back regressive taxes.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Walter Schultz



## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Chris Schuler <cschuler1984@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 3:59 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Sen\_Raptakis; Rep\_Roberts  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Chris Schuler  
12 Jack Pine Road  
Coventry, RI, 02816

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** billshaw123 <billshaw123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 12:22 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** BILLSHAW123@GMAIL.COM

Dear House Finance Committee,  
I am strongly opposed to H6256.  
It will irreparably damage and penalize the entire boating industry as well as the RI economy.  
I urge you to vote NO on H6256.  
Thank you.  
Bill Shaw  
Tiverton

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Richard Schattman <rschattman@me.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 12:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Boat Tax

If tax is reinstated, I will be moving my boat out of RI..... no if and or buts!  
Richard Schattman

Solstice Marine, LLC

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** pabs54 (null) <pabs54@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:49 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256

**As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.  
Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related  
businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our  
economy.**

**Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.**

**Sincerely,  
Patricia Silva  
Coventry**

**Sent from my iPhone**

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Don Scott <scottd60@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:32 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Boat tax

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Don Scott  
Bristol, RI

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Sandee Supancic <sjsupancic@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:35 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256 Boat Tax

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Vr,  
Carl and Sandra Supancic  
27 Saint Anna Ave.  
Bristol, RI 02809

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## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Michael Sullivan <mikesullivan9999@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Michael D. Sullivan  
Bristol

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Clay Shackleton <clay.shackleton.jr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:41 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill 6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, taxpayer, and business owner, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs, and negatively impacting our economy.

Rhode Island has a spending problem that it consistently pushes onto businesses and residents. It must stop. With a \$14B budget and federal funding at risk, the General Assembly must scale back and operate within its means, not increase taxes to once again price Rhode Islanders out of every market.

Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry

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Best Regards,  
Clay Shackleton Jr.  
G.W. Realty, Inc. President.  
Real Estate One, Ltd. Realtor.  
Springfield Storage, Operator.  
1645 Warwick Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02889  
Cell: 401-374-8644  
[cshackletonjr@gmail.com](mailto:cshackletonjr@gmail.com)



Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Derek Silva <deech71@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:23 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy

Please vote **NO** on **H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely, Derek Silva Coventry Johnson's Pond

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Chris O'Brien

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**From:** seth <seth1776@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** opposition to BILL H6256.

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a lifetime Rhode Island resident and boater, **I strongly oppose H6256**  
**!!!!**

A tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, increase the already to few local jobs in the boating and marine industry and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256.

Sincerely,  
Seth Shapiro

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Brian Sylvestre <brian.brisanhouse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:20 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Brian Sylvestre  
51 Island drive Coventry RI 02816

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Chris Shea <chriskshea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:09 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Chris Shea  
Portsmouth, R.I.

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**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** latimer spinney <lspinney@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Please vote No on H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Thanks,

Lat Spinney

Newport, RI

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Ezra Smith <ezra@newportyachtbuilders.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, and the owner of a marine business that designs, builds, refits and maintains boats in the state, employing people in marine design, woodworking and composite manufacturing, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Best Regards,

Ezra Smith  
Newport Yacht Builders  
[www.newportyachtbuilders.com](http://www.newportyachtbuilders.com)

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Daniel Silva <dan7651@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy. Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.  
Sincerely, Daniel E. Silva Coventry RI

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Kimberly Santilli <ksant612@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:15 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Steven & Kimberly Santilli  
Town of Coventry



## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Lynn Shaw <lynn@bristolmarine.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** No Tax on Boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

*Lynn Shaw  
Project Manager  
Bristol Marine - Somerset  
One Main Street  
Somerset, Ma.  
02726  
P 508-678-1234  
F 508-678-1703  
M 401-741-0617*

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** Bill Sokolowski <billsoko@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:21 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Tax on Boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.  
Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.  
Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Bill Sokolowski  
Jamestown, RI 02835

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Chris <c\_strukus@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:24 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Tax

Dear House Finance Committee. As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry. Sincerely, Chris

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Richard Schultz <richardschultz@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** PLEASE No Boat Taxes

Not having boat taxes here in RI is what allows me to own and keep my boat here and support the local marine services industry...

Thank you,

richard schultz productions, llc  
mobile +1.617.513.5513  
www.rschultz.com  
richardschultz@mac.com

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** john j saccoccia <jaysaccoccia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:30 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Bill h6256 boating taxes! Instead of finding ways of raising taxes spend more time on cutting a 14 billion \$ budget ! It is despicable how we spend and spend and waste \$ ! vote no on h6256 !! The taxes u raise will probably offset by the less income fr...

Sent from my iPhone

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Bud Smedberg <fasthobbys1@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:20 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy. Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry. Sincerely, Henry Smedberg Coventry

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Samantha Sofer <samantha.sofer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:12 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bill 6256

To Whom it may concern,

*"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."*

*Sincerely,*

Samantha Sofer

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Steve Spargo <spargman60@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:13 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** H6256

Dear House Finance Committee as a R.I.resident I strongly oppose H6256. Boaters spend a huge amount of money in R.I. Already buying ,maintaining , and keeping there boats yr round. We support the bait and tackle industry, grocery and clothing stores as well to enjoy Rhode Island's lakes ponds rivers and of course our ocean and beaches. You will drive boaters and buisness from the area. Please vote no on H6256. Sincerely Stephen R Spargo from Westerly R I



## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Richard Stanley <svequinox@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:39 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Concerned Rhode Island Boater

To whom it may concern,

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.

Regards,

Richard Stanley  
Sent from my iPhone

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Julie Savage <juliesavage@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:04 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256

Please vote NO on H6256.

Julie Savage  
112 Newport Beach Drive  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
Sent from my iPad

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** dirkkramers@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island marine business owner, a sail & powerboater, I strongly oppose House Bill H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders just like the last time there was one in place.

It will negatively impacting our economy, threatening local jobs, price us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state.

Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Yours Sincerely,

Dirk Kramers

SDK Structures, LLC  
60 Nonquit Lane.  
Tiverton, RI. 02878

Partner

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SDK Structures  
60 Nonquit Lane, Tiverton, RI. 02878, USA  
Mob: +1-401-480-3986

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Tom Stocker <rtstocker@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:13 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Sen. DiMario, Alana; Sen. Valverde, Bridget G.  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 and Protect Rhode Island's Marine Economy

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

I just learned of your plan to possibly reinstitute a sales tax on marine services in bill H6256. As a constituent and boater, I oppose this bill. It will significantly impact me and our fair state by evening the playing field with our neighboring states. Currently Rhode Island enjoys a competitive advantage by being the only state around us without these taxes.

This advantage drives the marine and many parts of our tourism economies here in Rhode Island. Many out-of-state boat owners and guests come to Rhode Island every day to enjoy our waters and spend their dollars with local vendors, tour operators, communities, marinas and restaurants to name a few. If this advantage were to go away, a significant portion of the out-of-state boat owners who elect to keep their boats in Rhode Island would have no incentive to do so. In fact, many would most likely elect to move their vessels to locals closer to their out-of-state homes. This will be devastating to many Rhode Island businesses who depend on this out-of-state revenue. Do not underestimate the number of boats registered in Rhode Island are owned by people who reside in other states. That number is substantial.

Please vote "NO" on H6256. Our economy depends on the marine economy.

Respectfully,  
Robert Stocker  
40 Web Ave., North Kingstown

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Andrew Savage <andrew.savage@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill 6256

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.

Most New England states have followed Rhode Island's lead by eliminating or significantly reducing sales and use tax on boats, recognizing the tremendous benefits Rhode Island receives by being a boating and marine business friendly climate.

I have been a yacht broker in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island and see day in day out the benefits to Rhode Island in being boater friendly. Imposing sales and use taxes on boats and boating will harm Rhode Island businesses, consumers, and residents.

Andrew Savage  
112 Newport Beach Drive  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Sent from my iPhone

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Tobey Smith <tsmith@fluxmarine.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:18 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 – Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,  
Tobey Smith  
Newport

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Andrew J. Spiro <aspiro@shmarinas.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Andrew Spiro  
Portsmouth, RI



**Andrew Spiro**  
Retail Manager  
Safe Harbor New England Boatworks  
O: (401) 683-4000

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**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Daniel Smalley Jr <dsmalleyjr@envisionsolutionsgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** sales tax on boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

APlease vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Dan Smalley

**Daniel Smalley Jr | Executive Vice President |**  **Retail Displays | Integrated Solutions | Asset Protection**  
Office 401.727.1447 | Cell 401.595.9973 | 51 Abbott Street | Cumberland, Rhode Island | [www.enVisionsolutionsgroup.com](http://www.enVisionsolutionsgroup.com)



## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** William Swanson <wfswanson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:26 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Will Swanson  
East Greenwich

Sent from my iPhone

Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** David Sharp <dsharp401@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:01 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose Boat Taxes

*Dear House Finance Committee,*

*As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly **oppose H6256**. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs, and negatively impacting our economy.*

*Please vote **NO on H6256**. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.*

*Sincerely,  
David Sharp  
Newport*

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Jason Starr <jason.starr20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:58 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Putting a tax on boats will drive marine related businesses out of state which will threaten local jobs. This will negatively impact our economy and small businesses. Small businesses in RI are already under enough strain as it is with the political climate in this State.

Please vote NO on H6256.

Best Regards,

Jason Starr  
Rumford, RI

Sent from my iPad

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Christopher Stefaniak <cstefaniak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 5:03 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.

Rhode Island's favorable tax situation has been influential in my choice to routinely bring my boating and my business to many surrounding RI restaurants and businesses. A change to these laws would have a massive impact on my choices moving forward and likely a huge negative impact on RI as a whole. I urge you to oppose this bill!

Thanks,  
Chris Stefaniak

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** William Swanson <wfswanson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:26 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Will Swanson  
East Greenwich

Sent from my iPhone

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Andrew J. Spiro <aspiro@shmarinas.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Andrew Spiro  
Portsmouth, RI



**Andrew Spiro**  
Retail Manager  
Safe Harbor New England Boatworks  
O: (401) 683-4000

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**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Daniel Smalley Jr <dsmalleyjr@envisionsolutionsgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** sales tax on boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

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

APlease vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Dan Smalley

**Daniel Smalley Jr | Executive Vice President |**  **Retail Displays | Integrated Solutions | Asset Protection**  
Office 401.727.1447 | Cell 401.595.9973 | 51 Abbott Street | Cumberland, Rhode Island | [www.enVisionsolutionsgroup.com](http://www.enVisionsolutionsgroup.com)

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Jason Starr <jason.starr20@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:58 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Putting a tax on boats will drive marine related businesses out of state which will threaten local jobs. This will negatively impact our economy and small businesses. Small businesses in RI are already under enough strain as it is with the political climate in this State.

Please vote NO on H6256.

Best Regards,

Jason Starr  
Rumford, RI

Sent from my iPad



## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** James Strohacker <james@becketco.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 5:01 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Concerned Rhode Island Business Owner

As an owner of a small yacht management business that generates a majority of its revenue in Rhode Island - and employs several Rhode Islanders - 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Strohacker

James B. Strohacker  
Becket & Company  
30 Colpitts Rd, 3rd Floor  
Weston, MA 02493

Mobile: +1 610.304.4795  
Email: james@becketco.com  
<http://www.becketco.com>

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Thomas Smotherman <grumpy706@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:07 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256 - Don't Tax Boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

Greetings!

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256.

Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters. Thus driving both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our economy.

I strongly urge you to Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Smotherman  
Hopkinton, RI

Sent from my iPhone

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** John Sylvia <jesqlaw@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 9:12 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose H6256-Don't tax boats

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating a tax on boats will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders by pricing us out of access to our waters, driving both boaters and marine related businesses out of state, threatening local jobs and negatively impacting our local economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

John Sylvia  
498 Gauvin Drive  
Warwick, RI 02886  
(401) 781-7927

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Joe <joe.saltamachia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:25 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am a commercial Rod and Reel fisherman and recreational boater here in RI, I strongly oppose H6256. Reinstating this tax would decimate the rod and reel fishing industry. Most of these fish are landed on vessels 17-29 ft with crews of 1-3 people. Most of the guys I fish with are retired and fish to supplement their income. There isn't enough money for me to do this full time and support my family. A tax on top of the licensing would put me in the red.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

--

Joseph Saltamachia  
Chepachet RI