

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Liam Sullivan <liam.sullivan754@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:51 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** rep-abney@rilegislature.gi; Rep. Slater, Scott; rep-marzalikowski@rilegislature.gov; rep-donovan@rilegislature.go  
**Subject:** Opposition to H6256

I am writing in opposition to Bill H6256 to remove the tax exempt status of boats in the state of Rhode Island. As a commercial fisherman, I am already incredibly burdened by many other taxes and fees, rising equipment, fuel, and gear prices, and stagnant fish prices. This industry is a difficult one to survive in, nevermind to thrive, and any additional taxes will make that increasingly more difficult.

Additionally, I find it inappropriate for a group of representatives to propose a tax on commercial fishermen when the vast majority of commercial fishermen live outside their constituency.

In regards to the recreational side of boating, this bill will hurt everyday Rhode Islanders. The majority of recreational boaters are not rich but rather hardworking middle and lower class people, who have scratched and saved to be able to enjoy a little boating on their days off in the summer. The father who wants to teach his kids to fish, the teenager who saved up to buy his first boat; these people will be priced out. I find it hypocritical to call ourselves the Ocean State while proposing bills that will push boating and the associated business and industry outside of our state's borders.

I hope that you will sincerely consider the ramifications of this bill. It should not pass.

Regards,  
Liam Sullivan  
Commercial Fisherman  
Bristol, RI