

Dear House Finance Committee,

I respect the need to look for ways to drive revenue for the state's programs. In considering H6256, I'd respectfully ask you to consider the impact of H6256 and the taxes on boating.

Me and many of my neighbor boat owners support the local economy through year-round expenses on maintenance, dockage, supplies, winter storage and several other marine services. Keeping boating costs manageable allows us to have a boat and enjoy the state's natural resources and help spread out the outdoor activities to reduce land-based overcrowding at beaches, etc. With costs rising across the board due to parts issues, insurance costs and marina fees, watching our state implement a tax will seem like an arbitrary, ill-timed tax on a population of the state, boaters, that contributes more than it takes.

Growing up in New Jersey, saw firsthand the challenges created by owners registering boats in nearby tax-free Delaware, several moved the weekend-usage boats there. NJ lost out on the annual registration fees, the lost economic spending and continues to have an enforcement challenge with DE-registered boats. The Ocean State, with 400 miles of coastline, should be a boater-friendly place that attracts boaters and grows this unique industry.

Regards  
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