

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Robert D. Leslie, CPYB <Robert.Leslie@NorthropandJohnson.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 3:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** .All Newport  
**Subject:** Boat sales Tax.

Greetings, As a marine industry leader I implore you to defeat this proposal. Taxing boats in Rhode Island is a miss-guided attempt to penalize the wealthy. The unintended consequence is the damage to the marine industry that is currently thriving in Rhode Island, in part, because of the current tax code which encourages boat building, boat maintenance, boat ownership and sales in our State. Taxing a specific market ( in this case Boating) will simply lead to boaters seeking alternative states to spend their money.

In the early 1990s The US had a 15% luxury tax imposed on boats and cars. This was devastating and the result was 40% of US pleasure boat builders went out of business. Many Rhode Island Companies included. Notably: Bristol Yachts, Pearson Yachts, C&C Yachts Portsmouth, Evelyn Yachts, to name a few. Prior to that tax the US was the largest builder of pleasure boats in the world. The tax resulted in negative cash flow because the number of unemployed boating industry workers claiming unemployment exceeded the tax revenues. We never recovered and still are second to the EU in boat building. It was repealed in 1992, but the damage was done.

Please use your common sense and table this proposal.

Respectfully,  
Robert D Leslie, CPYB  
Past President, Yacht Architects and Brokers Association.

**Robert D. Leslie, CPYB**

CPYB



Mobile +1 508 982 6488  
Office +1 401 848 5500

91 Long Wharf  
Newport, RI 02840 United States  
[northropandjohnson.com](http://northropandjohnson.com)

