

Chris O'Brien

From: S B <shawn0900@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 3:48 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: sheldon.whitehouse@whitehouse.senate.gov; AmoOffice@mail.house.gov; seth.magaziner@mail.house.gov; jack_reed@reed.senate.gov; Rep. Cortvriend, Terri-Denise; Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Sen. Ujifusa, Linda L.
Subject: NO BOATING TAXES!

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

As a RI marine business owner, resident of Portsmouth RI, and a lifelong sailor and liveaboard owner, I am strongly opposed to taxing a community that is already barely hanging on due to the extremely high costs of boat ownership. Every aspect of boat ownership has become nearly untenable for every day working class boat owners in RI, and the US as a whole. Boating and boat ownership is quickly becoming an option exclusively for the wealthy, leaving no affordable options for working class sport fisherman, recreational boaters, and liveaboard residents. From high boat prices, to extraordinarily high insurance costs, to high fuel costs, to high maintenance costs, and ridiculously high marina and mooring costs due to the loss of competition (the fault of both RI and US government from lack of monopoly oversight and regulation, ex. the Safe Harbor Marina monopoly in RI), we cannot afford to pay a dime more in taxes. You will ruin boating for the huge working class voting public in RI if you rescind the no tax laws for the marine industry. I will be sure to vote every supporter of this tax out if you do this. Every boat owner I know has said this to me as well. I moved here because of the no tax on boating. Act for the people, not the wealthy and hedge fund companies.

Shawn Brown
Portsmouth, RI