

I am writing to oppose any new taxation on sale or property taxes on recreational boats. Rhode Island used to be the number one boat manufacturing state in this country many years ago.

California and Florida and the Carolinas have taken that honor away from our state however, we are one of the few states that does not tax the sale of a boat. I don't know of any state that has a property tax on the value of a boat.

I can tell you as a Marine industry professional of 40 years and a boat dealer of 30 years that our lack of sales tax attracts business prospects from far and wide. Many out of state voters purchase and register boats in the state of Rhode Island and they store and service them here during the winter months as well.

While you might be assisting our local government in balancing their budget by trying to garnish those funds through sales tax, you will have a tremendous effect on Rhode Island businesses and their employees. Mind you those businesses and employees contribute to your tax base.

As I recall, they tried to appeal this tax many years ago, and it had disastrous results.

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