

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Steve Arnold <steve@southpawyachtsales.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 2:09 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Marine tax

Good afternoon -

I wanted to share my strong opposition to bring back both sales and property taxes on boats in RI. While there is seemingly a misperception that boats are for "wealthy people", I can tell you first hand that is not the case.

I have been in the marine industry for over 20 years, and the lions share of my clients are most definitely in the middle class. It is simply what folks choose to do in the "Ocean State" with their discretionary income.

This is one industry that thrives in this state - it employs thousands of people, both directly and indirectly, and brings in a ton of out of state money. This is not a "break for the wealthy" - it's common sense policy that helps RI in many ways.

Thank you

Steve Arnold  
Southpaw Yacht Sales  
401.265.5202  
Steve@SouthpawYachtSales.com  
<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.southpawyachtsales.com%2F&data=05%7C02%7CHousefinancecomm%40rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com%7Cce94cc5843664f25096208dd8bfffbe5%7C9fe6112ca456463789dc0f284ceffc66%7C0%7C0%7C638820653745096089%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMtZ4KKtUIEYyYAgIQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ObpdSFaTDv234CIhXahNpZSVXwyMtZ4KKtUIEYyYAgIQ%3D&reserved=0>