

Chris O'Brien

From: Vincent McAteer <vm354@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 5:29 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Please Oppose H6256 – Preserve Rhode Island's Marine Economy

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island resident and active member of our marine community, I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 6256. This legislation, which seeks to eliminate the sales tax exemption on boats and boating-related services, threatens a vital sector of our economy and the livelihoods of thousands of Rhode Islanders.

This is not simply a tax on the wealthy. The boating industry in Rhode Island supports a wide range of working-class jobs in boatyards, marinas, marine supply stores, repair shops, and seasonal service businesses. Families, tradespeople, and small business owners depend on the affordability and accessibility of marine services for their incomes and recreation. Taxing boats and services will discourage in-state purchases and service work, pushing business to neighboring states like Connecticut and Massachusetts that offer more favorable conditions.

The exemption currently in place has helped Rhode Island build a thriving marine industry that attracts boaters from across the region. This brings sustained revenue not only to marinas and service providers, but also to restaurants, retail stores, gas stations, and tourism-related businesses throughout our waterfront towns.

Repealing this exemption would reduce competitiveness, shrink our economic base, and place an unfair burden on residents who rely on access to the water for work and enjoyment. It would be a short-sighted policy with long-term negative consequences.

I strongly urge you to vote no on H6256 and protect Rhode Island's marine economy and working waterfront.

Very respectfully,

Vin McAteer

Vincent McAteer
Vice Commodore
East Greenwich Yacht Club
mobile: 401-413-6373
vm354@icloud.com

