

**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** wells pile <wmpile@bluetiehome.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 5:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Regarding H6256

Dear House Finance Committee,

As a Rhode Island boater, I strongly oppose H6256. As a former Marine Systems Technician (ABYC Master Mechanic, Electric, Diesel, and Marine Systems), I know the impact this will have on builders and repair yards throughout the state. I have spent years building and repairing boats. I have also taught at IYRS, training future technicians.

When Massachusetts instated a property tax on boats, many boaters simply moved their boats to Maine or other states where they industry welcomed them, tax free. When the Federal Government levied a 10% excise tax on new boats in 1991, the U.S. boat building industry took a severe hit from which it has never really recovered. After destroying the industry, the Federal government realized that the receipts were minimal, the boats they hoped to target shifted from being built in the U.S. and moved to foreign boatbuilders. The "Luxury Tax" was rescinded in 1994. Rather than the predicted \$262 million that the OMB predicted, it raised only \$47 million.

Reinstating a tax on boats will drive both boaters and marine-related businesses out of state, threaten local jobs and negatively impact our economy.

Please vote NO on H6256. Don't sink Rhode Island's marine industry.

Sincerely,

Wells M. Pile  
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