

Jamie Plume

From: Lydia Thomas <treetopspartners@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Senate Finance; Sen. Sosnowski, V. Susan
Subject: Bill 2682

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Dear Senate Finance:

I am writing in support of Bill 2682.

My family is fifth generation summer residents in Jamestown where we currently own a very modest 1,600 square foot summer cottage. The house is assessed at \$434,400. But because it sits on shoreline property, it is in the cross-hairs of the Non-Owner Occupied Property Tax. (Total assessment is \$3,475,500). In this day and age of billionaires, a \$1,000,000 baseline seems rather a low bar.

Our house is closed from October - April and the pipes are drained. It is not a rentable property. Because it is owned by four people, none of us can meet the standard of resident for 183 days.

The passage of the Non-Owner Occupied Property Tax is a money grab. Flagrant assumptions that summer/non-residents put undue stress on town services 44-72-2 (e) (g); or are not motivated to maintain our properties 44-72-2 (f) (j) are wild accusations. Our property taxes pay for town services 365 days a year while we are there less than 180 days; and schools, non of which we use, ever. Further, we pay for water year round and the water is turned off from October - April! Do not tell me that we don't pay our fair share...

Passage of the Non-Owner Occupied Property Tax would adversely cause the erosion of generations of caretakers who have preserved the land and appreciated the uniqueness of Rhode Island. This tax would further encourage the super wealthy to buy up foreclosed land and build McMansions along the coastline...thus forever destroying the Rhode Island we have sought to preserve. It's already happening....

Thank you for your consideration in passing Bill 2682.

Lydia Thomas
Treetops Partnership
Jamestown, RI