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Dear Finance Committee,

I am writing you today to express my concern and opposition to Bill R.B. 1007. I believe the effects of this bill would cause great harm to the already fragile and struggling marine industry.

As a marina manager for the past 12 years in the Groton area, I have experienced the difficulty in maintaining a positive business atmosphere as the economy has weaken, increased property taxes, increased regulations and the competition from neighboring states. The customer base has equally been affected by the economy. It is perceived that the boating community is “a bunch of rich folks” which is indeed inaccurate. The 180 customers that boat at the marina are blue collar middle class people, retired individuals and local fisherman . They are who most of the boating community is made up of. Their hard earned dollars are put toward a recreation that brings much need family orientated activity. The increases in sales and property taxes toward the boating community will only drive away boat owners or as in my area of Groton, have them relocate down the road in Rhode Island where they will not be subjected to these additional taxes. This will affect jobs in the industry and current tax revenue that the boating community produces.

Further more, I am personally committed to the acquisition of a marine related business. I was able to achieve financing for the purchase of a business which includes Connecticut State Sales Taxes of approximately \$25,000 as part of the acquisition costs. I will be employing 4 full time employees with hope for expansion in the future. The survival of this business depends on having the boating community be strong in the Southeastern Connecticut region. It scares me to go ahead with this major investment in my life because of the proposed taxes which would serve to devastate the boating community in this area. The taxes proposed would have a negative impact directly affecting the success of this business venture.

In summary, I wish to express very strongly how damaging to the boating community, my new business venture and the local Southeastern Connecticut region Bill R.B. 1007 would be if passed.

Respectfully,  
Jeff Dziedzic