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Connecticut Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3700  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members,

I am contacting you about my very deep concerns regarding HB6387 and SB1007. These proposed new taxes on boat owners in Connecticut will have a devastating affect on the marine industry in the state. It should be noted that these proposed taxes have no service increases for the marine industry or the individual boat owners. In addition, the vast majority of boats owned and operated in this state are operated on Federal waters, not state waters.

These proposed taxes are truly penal in nature, the boat owners are actually penalized for their possession of a recreational past time. Many owners will most likely choose to move their vessels to another state or dispense of the vessel altogether. In either case this will cause an increase in unemployment in the state.

Another concern regarding these proposed bills is that over time the legislature in Connecticut has demonstrated it does not have a sense of fiduciary responsibility; it is interesting to note that taxes in Connecticut per capita are either 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> highest of any in the United States (depending on which criteria you use). This strongly suggests that we as a state are terribly inefficient. I request that we begin responsible spending immediately, as any successful business is required to do. The state of Connecticut must be responsible in its ability to spend tax payer's hard earned money efficiently.

As far as luxury tax and sales tax increases for new boat purchases, I strongly oppose these proposals as well. Before any action is taken, it should be noted that this has been attempted by other states and has had devastating results.

In closing I request that the legislature recognize its very large responsibility to conduct and promote efficient use of tax payer's dollars. Effective immediately there should be a tax freeze.

Sincerely,



Fred A. Robinson