

Regarding Governors Bill 1007

I appreciate very much the importance and difficulty of the decisions you face to both balance the budget this year and to promote sustainable economic growth policies for years to come. Expense cuts, tax increases and a few accounting hat tricks may get us past this year. Sustainable balanced budgets, however, require Connecticut to grow jobs and businesses by, at the very least, maintaining any competitive advantage this state has for business to grow in Connecticut and for customers to patronize Connecticut businesses.

My concern as a voter, tax payer, boat owner and business owner is that the new taxes proposed for storage and labor in Governors Bill 1007 will put Connecticut businesses at a competitive disadvantage relative to our neighbors, resulting in the loss of jobs and revenue.

Where a boater lays up his/her boat for winter storage is not as geographically sensitive a decision as to where they dock or moor it in the summer. Price can be a determinant in the winter storage decision. Add to the cost of storage the fact that if an owner wants to have major work done to the boat, repowering or refitting, they are inclined to have it down while the boat is laid up and in storage for the winter. The proposed taxes on storage and labor will make Connecticut a less attractive place to store and refit one's boat.

Happy is the yard and related trades who get a storage customer also requiring a major refitting job. Unhappy is the yard and related trades whose customer can realize significant savings in taxes if they lay up and refit their boat in a neighboring state.

Losing major refitting work and storage customers to out of state competitors will result in the layoff of people employed in the marine trades in Connecticut, negatively impact sustainable growth and compound the difficulty of balancing the budget next year and into the future.

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