

Bill 1007

John Izzo D.B.A. Marine General
1 First Ave.
West Haven, CT 06516

3/4/11

RE: Tax Increase and Exemption Loss

State Of Connecticut
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

I have been in the Marine Trades for 30 years. It is an industry that is sensitive to weather conditions, revolves around fuel cost, and is heavily regulated for its size. The boating industry is the first to feel the effects of a recession and the last to recover. We have experienced all of these negative conditions this year and it seems as though we are likely to continue in this manner for sometime.

Many uninformed people stereotype the Marine Industry as "Fat Cats". The truth of the matter is that the majority of my customers are hardworking middle class people with small boats trying to establish quality time with their families.. Boating is a recreation that creates family unity, instills family values, and heightens the quality of life.

I understand that the State Of Connecticut is in debt and is looking for a way out of the its financial problems, but repealing tax exemptions on storage, labor, and trade-in allowances is not the answer. Increasing sales tax and charging property tax on vessels will be placing the proverbial nail in the coffin of the boating industry.

The Marine Trades employs, trains and educates their employees. It pays taxes to the town and the state. Repealing exemptions and/or increasing taxes will only burden an already strained industry. This in turn will cause lay-offs and closings.

In the past, our company, D.B.A. Marine General, has given back to the community by supporting the Special Olympics and Aces Coop (Special Needs Children). We have also helped initiate the West Haven High School Marine Technical program, supported the Sound School and the Schooner Inc. through services and donations. We have held fund raisers to benefit the Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and Saint Raphael's Hospital, especially at Christmas time.

Please consider my thoughts. I firmly believe that your actions will have a negative effect on the lives of many.

Sincerely Yours,
John P. Izzo 