

From: TJ Karbowski [tedkarbowski@yahoo.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 5:15 PM

To: FinanceRB

Subject: proposed tax on CT's marine industry

Attention Finance Committee,

My name is TJ Karbowski and I own a fishing charter business, Rock and Roll Charters, based out of Clinton.

As I'm sure you are aware, Governor Malloy is proposing many new taxes, including many to the marine industry. We that make a living in the marine industry are feeling the burden of this recession more than anyone already. The marine economy is very fragile right now, this is the last thing we need.

The most important thing that I feel the Governor does not understand is that besides just a small percentage of commercial fishing vessels, that the Connecticut's boating industry is DISCRETIONARY INCOME, we have virtually NO TOURISM and unlike our neighboring states, our marine industry is supported by RESIDENTS. He should be doing everything to HELP IT, NOT HURT IT. The new taxes are nothing short of self-destruction.

Please remember that there are no taxes on boating in Rhode Island and that for those MANY boaters that live in the Eastern third of the state. They are AT MOST only a couple minutes to a half-hour ride away.

Let's look at the trickle down effect the newly proposed taxes would have. --

To store an average size boat over the winter \$800, shrink wrap it \$800, winterize \$300, do misc. work on it ie..repairs and maintenance, upgrades etc.. and summer commission \$2,500, the boater would save HUNDREDS of dollars by just driving their boat East for a few minutes rather than South to a Connecticut marina! This would cause a CATAclysmic amount of marine industry layoffs in our state.

As a charter boat owner/operator I have the constant struggles of :

- Constantly changing fisheries laws, rules and regulations, such as the current "catch shares" proposal constantly being pushed by the corrupt individuals at NOAA.
- The ridiculous proposal by Ed Meyer to ban sinkers.
- Ever changing fuel prices, which can, and has, accounted for up to 20% of my total cost of doing business.
- The unpredictable effect the weather has on marine businesses, and everyone seems to forget about that.
- Marketing, -try to market to people during a recession! There used to be 3 boat shows in Connecticut, now there are only two, and they are ONE-THIRD of the size