

February 10, 2014

MASSACHUSETTS  
MARINE TRADES  
ASSOCIATION



Representative William Straus  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
State House, Room 134  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Thomas McGee  
Joint Committee on Transportation  
State House, Room 109C  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: SUPPORT - SB 1670: An Act relative to the transfer of boat registration between family members**

Dear Chairman Straus, Chairman McGee and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the above-referenced bill, and for your leadership in service to us all.

Established in 1964, the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (“MMTA”) is the statewide, non-profit, representative body for over 1,200 marine trades businesses in the Commonwealth. Our businesses employ over 27,000 men and women and generate over \$2.0 billion in direct and indirect annual economic activity for Massachusetts inland and on the coast. The mission of MMTA is to further the interests of the marine trades and the boating public through the promotion of boating, participation in legislation and professional improvement programs.

**The Massachusetts Marine Trades Association (MMTA) supports SB 1670, to allow for the transfer of a vessel certificate of number between family members.** Recreational boaters will certainly benefit from and appreciate a more streamlined registration process when a simple transfer of ownership between family members occurs, and the bill will help keep vessels registered here in-state, where boaters can spend their money on boating goods and services, instead of moving the boats out of state. It is hard enough to keep boaters and their business in Massachusetts, sandwiched between two states which do not tax the sales of boats and have boater-friendly tax incentives for boating-related jobs. **MMTA also thanks the bill’s sponsor for his work on behalf of recreational boaters and the marine trades industry. MMTA respectfully requests that the Committee support this bill.**

MMTA and its 300 member firms also seek to stem the exodus of recreational boating businesses from the Commonwealth and the loss of waters-edge usage for recreational boating purposes. The Association acts as a source of information about recreational boating and boating businesses for the general public, via its website at [www.BoatMA.com](http://www.BoatMA.com); for the Massachusetts Legislature, where the Association is a frequent participant in public hearings and in the 50-member Legislative Boating Caucus; and for executive branch agencies, the MA Federal delegation and authorities with regulatory and economic development responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1670. MMTA’s Government Relations and Legal Counsel, Jamy Buchanan Madeja is always available to discuss this and any other matter related to

the business of boating. Please feel free to contact her at 617-227-8410 or [jmadeja@buchananassociates.com](mailto:jmadeja@buchananassociates.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Moll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent than the last name "Moll".

Tim Moll, President, Massachusetts Marine Trades Association

Cc. Senator John D. Keenan