



Ms. Townsend,

As a boat owner in MDR, I'm very troubled by the recent news of change in regulation regarding the bottom paint for boats. I understand a test of copper based bottom paint was completed but not in the same manner at which boat owners use this paint causing skewed results. Although I am fully behind proper chemical regulation, its is unfair when regulation that will significantly effect so many is conducted without a real understanding of the use and more importantly the result of the change.

There are far more important issues that need to be handled in MDR, illegal dumping of black water, oil, fuel and derelict boats that chemicals and other foreign matter are released into the marina as they rot away..

Least of all to mention is the incredible increase in cost for boat owners to maintain the condition of their boats without this type of product available. As a boat owner I'm not so naive to complain about my cost of living, but unlike the larger and newer boat owners, I've made sacrifices to own a boat so that my family and I can enjoy the ocean together. The expected cost of this change could very well end this for me and many others like me. This would then cause a significant reduction in slip occupancy and a huge loss of revenue for the county & state.

In summary, the test completed doesn't reflect boat owners use of the product, many other areas of concern should be attended to first and the large loss of slip occupancy spells failure if this regulation is enacted.

Yours,

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