



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS

March 2, 2009

Testimony Submitted by John M. Johnson
Executive Director, National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA)
Public Hearing - March 4, 2009
Environment Committee

GOVERNOR'S BILL No. 832, AN ACT CONCERNING BOATING SAFETY

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy:

On behalf of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), I am writing to urge your support for Governor's Bill 832, an Act Concerning Boating Safety.

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories. NASBLA's mission is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment.

In keeping with our mission of reducing recreational boating deaths nationwide, we urge you to support this important piece of legislation. GB 832 would increase penalties and jail time for that person who causes the death of another while operating a vessel when intoxicated. Unfortunately, boating under the influence is a national problem and results in many fatalities every year. Statistics from the U.S. Coast Guard show that the percentage of boating accidents, injuries and fatalities caused by alcohol -- those in which alcohol was reported as a contributing factor -- has steadily risen over the past several years.

Along with promoting greater awareness of the dangers of "drinking and boating," NASBLA believes that the best way to reduce boating under the influence is to strengthen law enforcement capabilities on the water. With that in mind, GB 832 would go a long way in strengthening the laws in Connecticut, giving law enforcement officers more tools as they seek to make the state's waterways a safer environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and I sincerely hope you will lend your support towards its passage. Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

John M. Johnson
Executive Director, NASBLA

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