

CONNECTICUT MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

20 Plains Road
Essex, CT 06475-1501

(860) 767-2645 • Fax (860) 767-3559 • e-mail cmta@snet.net

March 8, 2010

Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **R.B. No. 272 An Act Concerning Drunk Boating.**

Chairmen Meyer and Roy;

Distinguished Chairmen and Members of the Environment Committee, the Connecticut Marine Trades Association (CMTA) and their membership urge you to support **R.B. No. 272 An Act Concerning Drunk Boating**. This bill would remove the time limitation between an incident and when a sobriety test may no longer be conducted. It would extend the period of time that a test for boating under the influence may be administered if expert testimony establishes the reliability of a test commenced beyond two hours of operation of the vessel. This is an appropriate change and we hope you can support its passage and implementation.

Practical application of the testing regimen when apprehending someone that appears drunk or has caused an accident on the waterways is often difficult because it is a confusing time and the clock is running. Previously a two hour window was all law enforcement had to administer an initial sobriety test. Because the location of an event may not be on the shore or a dock but in the middle of a waterway and because testing equipment may have to be called to the scene, additional time is frequently necessary to complete the procedures. If the reliability of such testing is confirmed then the additional time necessary should be considered.

We urge you to support this initiative, R.B. No.272 An Act Concerning Drunk Boating. It is a step in the right direction to modify the strict requirements on law enforcement, recognizing the difficulties they encounter when making the waterways safer for everyone. We would be pleased to discuss this at any time. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,

John S. Johnson
Legislative Chair

Grant W. Westerson
President