

For the Environment Committee, concerning HR Bill # 6541 - hearing [on Friday March 8, 2013](#)

I know that your committee is considering changing the law to allow a short on-line computer course to take the place of classroom-based safe boating courses. That's the change in the law that is also is going to allow on-line training for firearms. **This is a really bad idea.**
Please do not allow this new law to go into effect –

This is just another job creation - for instance Someone can start a business making \$250/day by doing the online course for anyone who contract them.....close the door before its too late.....

This was done for Defensive Driving Course and its not working - older folks and those that cannot read foreigners and those that bought their licenses years ago - allowed or pay others to sit at the computer and do the work.

- this rule change has not been well publicized so that the public can comment on it
 - on line training is good for some things, but it's not good for any "drivers ed" - it can't be good for "boaters ed"
 - you can't ask a question of a computer
 - you cannot learn from other students while you are at home taking the course on your laptop
 - you learn about boating from boaters - this is a cold computer, not a real person
 - how do you know that the person taking the test is really the person who took the course
 - a computer can't show you how to dock a boat - or tell you what mistakes it made while it was learning
- A computer cannot properly teach weapons training and safety for hunters and especially for children. This is an unsafe proposal which puts people at RISK

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