

**Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Linda M. Gentile and the Environmental Committee**

Concerning HR Bill # 6541 hearing on Friday March 8, 2013.

**I OPPOSE THIS BILL AND OPPOSE ALLOWING ONLINE COURSES IN BOATER AND HUNTER SAFETY.**

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.

There are many reasons for my opposition. First, how will you be sure the person on the computer, in their home, is the same person who has signed up for the course? A parent can easily take the course for their children, siblings can easily take the test for each other, and with an online course you have no way to know that. Next, you cannot ask a question of a computer. Any point that needs clarification will go unaddressed. Last, a student will not receive the benefit of an experienced boatman giving the course. They will not have the opportunity to ask questions or hear first hand about the issues the instructor had when he or she was learning. They will not hear about real issues out on the water from a computer. They will not hear about issues other students are having or questions they may have. Certain things can be taught well over the internet. This, however, is not one of them.

Sincerely,  
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