

To whom it may concern;

I have been a boater for over 40 years. Boating is a skill developed both in the classroom and by experience much like learning to drive a car. Recently I took my teenage son to a boating class where we spent many hours with an excellent certified trainer learning the ins and outs of boating. I attended these sessions too as a refresher course for myself. This course complimented the hands on training I was able to provide to my son leading up to and being prepared for the classroom training and then ultimately the testing. Age and maturity as the rule currently states is an important factor in achieving a Safe Boating Licence. This is not for "children" given the inherent risks and potential dangers that exist on CT waterways. I am not opposed to on- line learning as long as it is used in conjunction with hands on AND classroom training with minimum ages established. I oppose the bill as it is currently being considered.

respectfully submitted.

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