

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 and this rule change has not been well publicized so that the public can comment on it.

I urge you not to allow this new law to go into effect for the following reasons;

on line training is good for some things, but it's not good for "drivers ed" - it can't be good for "boaters ed"

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. Weapons Safety is truly a "hands on" subject. Anything less is DANGEROUS.

Respectfully,  
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