

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

I see 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 and on-line training for firearms. I have taken and passed the instructor-led CT firearms course, the hunter safety course and the safe boating course. I can not fathom how an on line course could be equivalent to the instructor-led versions. Participants would not benefit from the experience of the instructors and the stories they share to emphasize and reinforce important safety issues. Many of the participants in my classes failed – repeatedly- and not just the kids. These are not the people who should be handling weapons or boats! In an on-line course they could easily cheat or have someone take the test for them. Please do not eliminate these important instructor-led safety requirements – they are a minimum filter, but better than nothing, which is what the on-line courses would be.

Sincerely,

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