

Environmental Committee

Senator Edward Meyer and Representative Linda M. Gentile

Please accept this as my formal opposition to Bill 4561 which would allow online training for those seeking to earn their certification to operate Boats and Personal Watercraft (jetski's) and hunting safety/weapons training.

1. Although we call boating a “recreational” sport, it comes with numerous risks to the safety of the operator and other boaters. I completed a classroom boating course and cannot in any way fathom how the knowledge I absorbed could be learned and retained from an online course. I have completed online courses in my lifetime and believe there’s a place for them, but not as it relates to something as critical as boating and hunting safety.

2. The concept of someone handling firearms and other “weapons” used in hunting with little more training than taking an online course is outrageous. The committee should consider that they take full and total responsibility for the numerous deaths that may result in someone learning to handle weapons online instead of in a classroom which comes with instruction from a live person. Even handling a weapon during training requires certain protocols to be followed and the carelessness that will result from someone watching their computer screen while they handle weapons is absurd.

I OPPOSE OLINE TRAINING FOR BOATING SAFETY AND FOR HUNTING SAFETY. Thank you for your consideration.

Manuel Sierra

[sierra.manuel17@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.manuel17@gmail.com)