

From: Matthew J. Walton

To: Environmental Committee

RE: H.B. No. 6541

To CT Environmental Committee,

As an educator I understand how valuable this type of instruction is for all residents of the State of Connecticut. I have taught the DEEP Safe Boating class in my middle school classroom for the past 5 years. Over that time I have licensed some 500 students between the ages of twelve and fourteen. The class is invaluable in the sense that it teaches people to be safe and accountable on Connecticut's waterways.

By providing an online option, there is a likelihood that more people will be able to access this lifesaving information. The key to making any improvements to the safety of our waterways comes through education. Allowing people to access a computer-based class is staying current with the way many in our population presently learn. Most higher-level institutions offer online classes.

I am in full support of this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Matthew Walton
mwalton@oldsaybrook.k12.ct.us
Interim Associate Principal
Old Saybrook Middle School
(860) 395-3168
(860) 510-9654