

12 YDF

For Members of the Environment Committee – re HB 6541

The 12mYDF was established in 2006 in Greenwich, Connecticut as a 501(c) (3) tax exempt charitable trust, educational institute and “living museum” for the “*acquisition, restoration and preservation of historic America’s Cup 12 metre yachts and their racing heritage*”.

Your proposed online safe boating course legislation directly undermines the spirit of our foundation’s goal to foster a safe and knowledgeable appreciation of the rich maritime history behind the 12 metre class by providing a necessary “hands on” requirement of actual on-board training and sailing of actual 12 metre America’s Cup yachts with America’s Cup veterans – all of which have participated in recreational boating safety courses and Commercial Captains courses under approval from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Our foundation’s philosophy is to set a president for the necessity of “hand on” - experiential learning aboard these proud racing yachts! We believe this is integral to the safe handling and maintenance of our historic “big boats” in order to make them more available for use to a wide variety of groups, including local sailing enthusiasts, corporate patrons, schools, charitable events, youth sailing programs and yacht clubs throughout Connecticut.

Requisite “hand-on” training and certification is integral to the achievement of our goals and objectives! We strongly believe that substitute online training and certification puts the State of Connecticut at risk and has no place for the junior sailor’s , patrons and benefactors and crews of our organization.

Kind regards,

Patrick J. Sikorski

Patrick J. Sikorski
Executive Director / Trustee

12m Yacht Development Foundation
10 Homewood Lane, Darien Connecticut 06820 USA
T: 203-656-1182 - E: psikorski@optonline.net - W: www.12mYDF.com
IRS: 501c3 Determination # 06-6409216