

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.

Please do not allow this new law to go into effect. While online courses are good for some things, I don't think boating and firearms are two of them. I am a recent first time boat owner and took the required 8 hour safe boating course in a classroom. There are so many things I learned from the teacher and from the questions that others in the classroom asked. I would never had gotten that knowledge from an online course. Actually, I took an online course before the classroom training and still learned a lot more from the classroom course.

As a matter of fact, I think the required training for boating doesn't go far enough. Boats are vehicle and like cars, should require licenses and tests in order to drive one. I personally hired someone to teach me how to drive and dock the boat before I ever took it out on my own but that was not a requirement for me to own the boat.

Thank you for your consideration.

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