

For Members of the Environment Committee – re HB 6541

I have been a member of the boating community in Western Long Island Sound for over forty years. I can tell you without exaggeration that beginning boaters need as much formal education as possible, and certainly not less than is already required.

The type of relevant knowledge offered by experienced instructors in a classroom setting is an absolute necessity for the beginning boater.

It cannot be estimated how many lives have been saved over the years by boaters being prepared both materially and in regards to knowledge imparted to them by experienced instructors. Additionally, material and financial resources that would have to be expended by law enforcement and emergency services to rescue under-educated and under-prepared boaters needs to be taken into account.

I feel strongly that to introduce on line boating courses leading to the CT Boating Safety Certificate would be irresponsible; posing a very tangible risk, not only for individuals, but to the public safety of all who enjoy our waterways.

Respectfully,

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