

Senator Edward Meyer, Representative Linda M. Gentile and the Environmental Committee

Concerning HR Bill # 6541 hearing on Friday March 8, 2013.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL AND OPPOSE ALLOWING ONLINE COURSES IN BOATER AND HUNTER SAFETY.

The consideration of allowing an on-line computer course to take the place of actual physical classroom time for Boater Safety courses and Fire Arms training, especially in view of recent events is not a law that should be passed.

Physically attending a class offers more than just a vehicle to "pass" a test. It shows a commitment by the student to attend and learn the work from a qualified instructor. It gives the student opportunity to work alongside others with the same interest, to share in experiences and work together to understand the material. It also gives them access to others that have some real time experience on the water, or in the woods. The instructors have the ability to determine if the material is being understood, and not just read to get a test answer. They can spend the time needed for the student to understand each part of the course before proceeding to the next section and can assure that the student is thoroughly prepared to take the final test.

On line courses are a benefit for a number of subjects - but to have a law passed to allow on line courses for Boating Safety or Fire Arms Safety does not make sense. It can't even be verified that the person holding the completion certificate is the person who took the test.

I want the person in the boat next to me to be educated and aware of the rules and regulations, along with possessing the skill to competently operate his vessel. Lives, my life, my family's life may depend on it. That goes double for the person in the woods with a gun. What would be next? Driving school and tests on line. I sure hope not.

I STRONGLY oppose changing regulations and laws regarding Boating Safety and Hunter Safety Training at this time.

Respectfully,

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