

**\*\*For the Environment Committee, concerning HR Bill # 6541 - hearing on Friday  
March 8, 2013\*\***

Dear Committee Members,

I am concerned with this bill that your committee is considering. This bill will change 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 going to allow on-line training for firearms. This is **NOT** a prudent action on your part.

Please **DO NOT** allow this new law to go into effect for the following reasons:

\*Boating can be fun, but also can be dangerous and even fatal if the operator does not know the navigation rules.

\*During an online course the student does **NOT** have the opportunity to ask an instructor questions. The student also does **NOT** have the opportunity to hear the questions/answers that are asked by other students and explained in detail by the instructor. This is an *essential component* of education.

\*Online courses are usually viewed as a 'shortcut' to obtain qualifications. Online courses have also given students opportunity to have other persons complete the online course for them.

\*Online courses for boating, weapons training, and hunting would cause a safety risk for those participating in these activities.

\*Online courses only provide 'whats in the book' - it does **NOT** provide the advantage of having an instructor utilize training aids in the classroom such as marine radios, GPS, life jackets, charts, distress signals, ropes, etc, In the case of firearms instruction/safety, many instructors use an 'immobilized/inert' weapon for the student to handle during the instruction. Sitting in front of a laptop/pc this is not the case. There is a distinct advantage of having these training aids in the classroom.

I am an active United States Coast Guard **LICENSED** Master Captain who has obtained his license from many hours of study and effort. I feel that you will be doing a disservice to these boating students by allowing them to obtain their safety training through an online course. Safety should not be compromised because of 'convenience'.

Therefore, I making the effort to send this email to your committee because I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this bill because it changes the regulations and laws concerning Boating Safety/Hunter Safety Training.

I appreciate your time and effort, and I thank you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Captain Kevin Ivany  
U.S.C.G. Licensed Master Captain