

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.

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!!

I think that this regulation change is being rushed. This is the first I heard of it.

When I took my course in boating safety, I learned as much from the other students in the class, by the questions that they asked, references made to local navigational issues, and the interesting way that the teacher answered their questions. It is doubtful that computers may be able to do this, especially responding to questions about specific waterways or docking areas.

There are lots of things to learn about boating that aren't in the book. If you are sitting at home with your PC, you just can not "hear" what the other students are asking, and what the instructor is telling them. You can't learn from real life situations brought up by other locals attending the classes. My teacher brought some "training aids" into the class radios, ropes, charts which were most helpful. How can students learning through a computer ever "see or feel" what boating is about? Boating is reality like driving, not just a video game. Terrible consequences will result if it turns into just that!!

I STRONGLY oppose changing the regulations/laws regarding Boating Safety and Hunter Safety training at this time.

Thank you!!

Respectfully,

Glenn Schabel
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