

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 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, on line training is good for some things, but it's not good for "drivers ed" - it can't be good for "boaters ed" .

Do you know how many young people die on the water, and how many accidents are there yearly due to people not taking safe boating lessons?

You would be making a grave mistake if you are making the opportunity for people to easily obtain "diploma" without the actual discussion at a classroom, and realizing how many "traps" are waiting for them on the water. Safe boating classes prepare you for emergency's, what to do if electronic fails you, how to plot the charts, make you aware what to do about tides and currents, how to make safe knots (with practice) [etc.etc.](#) Do you really think that the computer can replace an experienced teacher, who has been through a lot on the water?

I have taken a safe boating class and there is no way, that anything written in theory can replace the real interaction with teacher and other students.

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

You must keep our waters safe!!!!

Thanks a lot.

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