

To whom it may concern,

I have been made aware of a frightening issue regarding the prospect of facilitating online training for both safe boating and hunting venues, and am writing to appeal to our legislatures common sense to defeat this proposal.

I am a certified "safe boater", and possess a State of Connecticut personal watercraft license. Prior to taking (read, physically attending) this class to become certified, I boated for years on the St. Lawrence Seaway in upstate New York. I considered myself an experienced and safe boater, but happily and eagerly submitted to the Ct. Licensure requirements when it was mandated. I took the safe boating course, and subsequently passed the test, obtaining my PWC license. When it came time for my two kids to get out on the water, I required them to do the same. I am comforted as a father and responsible adult that they took the time and committed themselves to accomplish this simple yet meaningful venture. The classroom venue allowed both them, and myself (a self proclaimed safe boater) to ask questions, share others experiences, pick the brain of the instructor, and gain invaluable insight and seasoned advice of other knowledgeable mariners. This is "sage wisdom" from seasoned people that quite frankly could never be acquired or appreciated through an on-line venue!

Please do not allow this reckless proposal to be passed. As a government we have few greater priorities than to keep our citizens safe. To allow our waters (where my kids boat and recreate!), to become accessed by under-trained and ill-experienced mariners whose true qualifications could never be qualified/verified under these pending changes, would be the ultimate breach of responsibility to those of us who took the time to become adequately trained, and expect and deserve the right to share our waters with others of equal concern.

Thank you in advance for doing the right thing and protecting myself, my children, and our friends and family. Defeat this proposal!

Sincerely,

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Sent from my iPhone