

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

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 - it 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, and the interesting way that the teacher answered their questions. Some computers may be able to do this - but it doesn't sound as if this proposal will work that way.

There are lots of things to learn about boating that aren't in the book. The Instructors use "training aids" in the class - radios, ropes, charts ... I think the hands on training I experienced help me become a better boater. I would assume it would be the same in a hunting class.

Please think of the safety of the people acquiring these classes and the people around them. Proper hands on training is essential for safe operation of watercraft and hunting equipment.

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

Thank you -

Respectfully,

*TJ Slowkowski*  
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