

**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 –

- this rule change has not been well publicized so that the public can comment on it
- on line training is good for some things, but it's not good for "drivers ed" - it can't be good for "boaters ed"
- you can't ask a question of a computer
- you can learn from other students while you are at home taking the course on your laptop
- you learn about boating from boaters - this is a cold computer, not a real person
- I had to work for my "diploma" - why should the new students have it really easy and not know as much as I when boating
- how do you know that the person taking the test is really the person who took the course
- a computer can't show you how to dock a boat - or tell you what mistakes it made while it was learning - A computer cannot properly teach weapons training and safety for hunters and especially for children. This is an unsafe proposal which puts people at risk.

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

Thank you -

Respectfully,  
Tom Smolcnop