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08/20/2007 05:07 PM

Please respond to
capteasterly@cs.com

To <http://tancredo.house.gov>

cc GovtAffairs@BoatUS.com, Group Ow-Docket@EPA

bcc

Subject Docket ID No. OW-2007-0483-Recreational Boating
Act of 2007

Dear Representative Tancredo:

I am writing to urge you to support H.R. 2550 "The Recreational Boating Act of 2007." This legislation would allow boating to continue in this country as a viable, healthy, family pastime, instead of being saddled with new regulations and permit requirements intended for commercial ships with ballast water tanks.

In 2006, a U.S. District Court decision struck down the 34-year permit exemption for recreational boats within the Clean Water Act. As a result, unless H.R. 2550 is passed, the EPA is required to develop and implement a permitting system for all boats in the U.S. (no matter the size or type) by September 30, 2008.

H.R. 2550 does not weaken or reverse any current environmental regulations. It simply allows boats to be operated the same way they are being operated this year, without an onerous and costly permit system.

My family and I do extensive boating both in Colorado and Florida. We are very conscious of preserving our precious waterways and strictly adhere to the regulations regarding marine sanitation devices. The sailors and boaters we associate with do the same. Please support this Act and prevent the typical "punish the many for the sins of a few" mentality so prevalent in Washington, D.C. today.

There are an estimated 18 million recreational boats in the country, offering a great way of life to boaters and more than 850,000 jobs nationwide in the marine industry. H.R. 2550 is legislation that will keep boating intact. I urge you to actively support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We appreciate what you do for Colorado!

Sincerely,
R. P. Easterly
CAPT, SC, USNR-Ret.