



Government Affairs

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July 21, 2010

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

BoatU.S. is the country's largest association of recreational boat owners, representing more than 500,000 members nationwide. Our members own a range of types and sizes of boats, but all share a similar love of the water, and an appreciation of this healthy family outdoor pastime.

We recognize that homeland security remains a significant challenge for our country, and that the U.S. Coast Guard is tasked with protecting 93,000 miles of coastline from offshore threats. For several years, BoatU.S. has been a strong advocate for the USCG's America's Waterway Watch (AWW) program, and we have promoted it strongly, as recently as March/April, when we wrote about it and posted the phone number prominently in our BoatU.S. Magazine (circulation 500,000+).

BoatU.S. is in support of the Safe Port Reauthorization Act of 2010, which will be discussed this week. As currently written, it will maximize the abilities and effectiveness of AWW, enabling boat operators in all waterways to report to the USCG suspicious activity that is observed. It can provide a significant "force multiplier" for our coastal guardians.

We appreciate your efforts to boost AWW, and look forward to its increased success in the future. On behalf of boaters nationwide, thank you for supporting this voluntary effort to keep our nation's waters safe and accessible.

We stand by to answer any questions on this or other boating related issues.

Most Sincerely,

Margaret Podlich
Vice President, Government Affairs

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