



NATIONAL BOATING FEDERATION



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July 21, 2010

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

Dear Senator Collins:

We at the National Boating Federation understand that you are preparing to introduce re-authorizing legislation for the America's Waterway Watch program which supports the voluntary reporting of suspected terrorists activity or suspicious behavior on our nation's waterways. On behalf of the National Boating Federation, we encourage the introduction of this important legislation and greatly support the effort. The National Boating Federation strongly endorses the SAFE Port Act Reauthorization of 2010, and most specifically the America's Waterways Watch language contained therein.

The National Boating Federation consists of 23 boating associations across the U.S.A. and includes several Canadian associations and yacht clubs as associate and club members. Our association represents in aggregate over 2 million recreational boaters.

As you know, America's Waterway Watch (AWW), a combined effort of the Coast Guard and its Reserve and Auxiliary components, is a national awareness program that asks those who work, live, or recreate on or near the water to be aware of suspicious activity that might indicate threats to our country's homeland security. Coast Guard Reserve personnel concentrate on connecting with businesses and government agencies, while Auxiliaries focus on building AWW awareness among the recreational boating public.

Thank you for your ongoing support of strengthening our country's maritime homeland security defenses and should you have any questions or require additional support, please do not

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hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

THOMAS M. DOGAN
President, NBF

TMD/kld
pc: Department of Homeland Security
Attn: Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano

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