

JAMES L. OBERSTAR

8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

2365 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2308
(202) 225-6211
FAX: (202) 225-0699
www.house.gov/oberstar

RANKING DEMOCRAT:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2308

November 9, 2005

DISTRICT OFFICES:

BRAINERD CITY HALL
501 LAUREL STREET
BRAINERD, MN 56401
(218) 828-4400

CHISHOLM CITY HALL
316 LAKE STREET
CHISHOLM, MN 55711
(218) 254-5761

231 FEDERAL BUILDING
DULUTH, MN 55802
(218) 727-7474

38625 14TH AVENUE
SUITE 300B
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55
(651) 277-1234

Admiral Thomas Collins
Commandant
United States Coast Guard
Headquarters
2100 2nd Street SW
Washington, D.C 20593-0001

Dear Admiral Collins:

At the May 2001 hearing of the Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation on recreational boating matters, Admiral Cross assured the Committee that the Coast Guard was moving forward on a regulatory work plan to prevent open propeller strikes on recreational boats that cause injury and death to the boating public.

I would appreciate any information you have regarding progress on that regulatory work plan and a copy of the plan.

It is my understanding that many of these accidents involve children. Unfortunately, the published annual statistics do not properly represent either the overall propeller incidents in the general boating community, nor those specifically suffered by our most at risk population, children and youth.


I understand that there are newspaper reports this summer of the deaths, amputations, and severe lacerations in children ages 4 - 18. Would you please provide me with an update on the propeller hazard for individuals aged 0-18 for the years 1998 - 2004?

In addition, I would like you to calculate the boating exposure of this age group, compared with that of the adult population determine if the harm to our children is proportionately greater.

I am sure you would agree that one of the key purposes of our recreational boating safety laws is to protect children. I look forward to working with you to help safeguard them from injury.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.

JLO/br