



Commander  
Ninth Coast Guard District  
1240 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 2069  
Cleveland, Ohio 44199

October 20, 2006

Re: Docket Number CGD09-06-123

JIM DOYLE  
CHAIR  
*Governor of Wisconsin*

Dear Commander:

ROD BLAGOJEVICH  
*Governor of Illinois*

It is with a great sense of responsibility that I submit these comments on behalf of myself and my colleagues, the Great Lakes Governors. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed measures. Given the great interest in and importance of this issue, we are thankful for the extension of the original deadline for comment.

MITCH DANIELS  
*Governor of Indiana*

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
*Governor of Michigan*

GEORGE E. PATAKI  
*Governor of New York*

TIM PAWLENTY  
*Governor of Minnesota*

ED RENDELL  
*Governor of Pennsylvania*

BOB TAFT  
*Governor of Ohio*

The Great Lakes Governors support measures to ensure and enhance our nation's security as well as related measures to improve military preparedness. We are keenly aware of the challenges to our security and we appreciate the difficulty of maintaining a consistently high state of vigilance and readiness. It is recognized that ongoing training by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) is critical to ensure our security. USCG training is particularly important as its role, responsibilities and equipment develop and evolve in light of our new security requirements.

DAVID NAFTZGER  
*Executive Director*

While implementing robust measures to ensure security, the Great Lakes Governors also support protection of our Great Lakes and our citizens who use and enjoy them. Toward that end, military and related training should be conducted in a manner that protects our citizens as they use the lakes for recreational and commercial purposes, is consistent with ecosystem health and minimizes, and where possible eliminates, any harmful ecological impacts.

When exercises are conducted that could pose a potential threat to the public, such as firearm discharge, the Great Lakes Governors support advance public notice that includes, at a minimum:

- the time and location of the exercise;
- guidance on safe zones;
- in areas where communities use water from the lake for drinking water, the Coast Guard should investigate what impacts the trainings will have on the water quality; and,
- other information that may be needed by the public to ensure their safety.

35 East Wacker Drive  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, IL 60601

Voice: 312-407-0177  
Fax: 312-407-0038  
Web: [www.cglg.org](http://www.cglg.org)  
e-mail: [cglg@cglg.org](mailto:cglg@cglg.org)

Further, in advance of proposed exercises, public notice as well as notice to local, state and congressional officials would be useful to ensure sensitivity to local conditions and concerns.

Specifically, we recommend that the USCG notify relevant Port Captains and State agencies at least 48-72 hours in advance of any training exercises so that they may assist in communications to notify fishermen and boaters. Of course, the timing of exercises has a role in determining the significance of their impact. Therefore, we recommend that no in-water training involving firearm discharge or other potentially dangerous activity occur within the safety zones during critical spawning periods. Additionally, holding the training exercises in early spring (before April 15) or late fall (after November 1) would reduce the impact to recreational boating navigation.

In recognition that the Great Lakes are a shared, bi-national resource, the Great Lakes Governors support outreach by the USCG to the Canadian federal government as well as the governments of Ontario and Québec regarding the proposed measures. Further dialogue, as appropriate, should also be initiated in advance of future exercises.

The Great Lakes Governors support an enhanced dialogue among the USCG, other federal agencies, State, local and Tribal governments as well as recreational and commercial stakeholders to ensure that our mutual objectives are met. The Council of Great Lakes Governors would be pleased to assist in coordinating the Governors' participation in these discussions. Our staff contact is David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors, at (312) 407-0177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Doyle  
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors  
Governor, State of Wisconsin