



**Commander, Atlantic Area
United States Coast Guard
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, Virginia 23704-5004**

MAR 31 2010

Dear Senator Inhofe,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with me and for sharing your views and ideas on viable uninspected passenger vessel (UPV) licensing options and enforcement standards on Lake Texoma. As promised, I am taking action to address your concerns.

Regarding your concern of the level of Coast Guard enforcement during the upcoming boating season, please rest assured that the Coast Guard is not planning to conduct discretionary surge or random boarding enforcement operations of UPV on Lake Texoma.

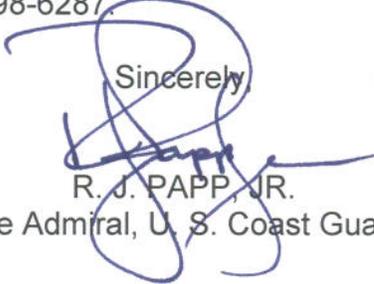
We will continue to provide outreach and education to UPV operators, and, as mandated by federal law, continue to investigate credible and specific evidence of non-compliance, negligent operations, and marine casualties. When possible, we will enlist the assistance of your state in conducting such investigations. Please note that any investigation that reveals non-compliance may lead to regulatory enforcement action.

The Coast Guard is also assessing options within our licensing program to facilitate compliance, including a more customized version of mariner licenses for inland operators. Likewise, we are actively developing guidance to coordinate enforcement efforts with states through formal agreements, in most cases reducing the need for an active Coast Guard presence on inland waters.

As we move forward in finalizing our national guidance for UPV compliance, enforcement, and outreach operations, we look forward to working with you and your staff in achieving mutually-agreeable resolutions to this issue. As always, our paramount concern is safety.

Please feel free to contact Captain Sean Mahoney, my External Affairs Officer at (757) 398-6687 with any questions or concerns. Should you need to reach me, please don't hesitate to call at (757) 398-6287.

Sincerely,


R. J. PAPP, JR.

Vice Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard

*Thanks again for
the meeting Sir!*