



May 8, 2013

Rear Admiral Keith A. Taylor
United States Coast Guard
Thirteenth District
915 2nd Avenue #2664
Seattle, Washington 98174

Dear Admiral Taylor,

We write to express our concern regarding permitting issues for the jet boat race scheduled for May 17 and 18 in the northern Idaho community of St. Maries.

Race organizers sought and received the appropriate permits to conduct the event from both local governments and the State of Idaho. After local and state permits were issued, a small number of concerns were expressed to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) regarding environmental impacts of the race. The IDPR alerted the United States Coast Guard (USCG) of these concerns which has triggered a process in which the USCG now must issue a permit to conduct the race.

According to information we have received the race organizers were notified on April 15, 2013, that they needed a permit from the USCG for the race. After receiving this notice the race organizers completed the permit application, only to be notified on May 2, 2013, that the USCG would not be able to permit the race because an environmental assessment was needed to address concerns raised by a single individual. The USCG has informed the race organizers that it will take at least 135 days to complete the environmental assessment.

This series of events has placed the race organizers in a no-win situation. They did not need a permit from the USCG until a complaint was filed, and the complaint was not filed in time for the USCG to complete an environmental assessment so that a permit could be issued before the dates of the races.

It is our understanding that the USCG has begun work on an environmental assessment to address the concerns raised regarding the jet boat races. We encourage the USCG to complete this assessment to address concerns raised in the future.

However, because the complaint received by USCG was not received in time for an environmental assessment to be completed for this year's races and because the complaint does not allege that the races will have a significant environmental impact; we ask that you use your authority to issue the permit to allow the races to proceed as planned.

We look forward to your prompt reply.


MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator


JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator



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