



H.Res. 549 – Recognizing the importance of America’s Waterway Watch program.

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 549 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) on July 16, 2007. It was reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote on September 14, 2007.

H.Res. 549 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 16, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The America’s Waterway Watch program is a maritime homeland security program conducted by the Coast Guard. This public outreach program aims to encourage boaters and individuals who live or work near the more than 95,000 miles of the United States maritime border to report suspicious and unusual activities to the Coast Guard National Response Center.

According to the America’s Waterway Watch website, “*America's Waterway Watch* is similar to the *Coast Watch* program of World War II, which caused the early growth of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a group of citizen-volunteers who were mobilized as a uniformed, civilian component of the Coast Guard to scan the coast for U-boats and saboteurs attempting to infiltrate the shores of the United States.”

SUMMARY

H.Res. 549 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness;
- Encourages those who live, work, or engage in recreational activities around America’s waterways to maintain a heightened sense of awareness in the maritime domain and report suspicious and unusual activities to appropriate authorities; and
- Support the goals of America’s Waterway Watch program.

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