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American Boating Congress, Washington, DC: I attended the American Boating Congress (ABC) on Tuesday & Wednesday, May 10-11, at the Renaissance Hotel in DC. The ABC is sponsored by the National Marine Manufacturers Association, as they have done for a number of years. I was invited to attend the ABC, since NBF serves as a Co-Host and helps with the arrangements prior to the opening day of the ABC.

On Tuesday there were a few closed meetings, but I did attend the Concurrent Issue Workshops, at which we were provided good updates on items of importance to all attendees who were scheduled to attend the afternoon "Hill Meetings." As a Maryland resident, the schedule provided to me by the ABC were for meetings with Rep. Sarbanes, Senator Mikulski and Rep. Ruppertsberger. The meetings worked out well, with Team Members stating their areas of interest and staffers taking notes. I indicated the need to have legislation passed to enable more marinas to be able to sell gas that contains zero ethanol and the need to pass legislation to end the Renewable Fuel Standard, which mandates that millions of gallons of ethanol be pumped into our fuel supply by 2022. I expressed concern about commercial ships pumping ballast water and introducing invasive species to the Great Lakes and other waterways. I also expressed our concerns about the Nat'l Park Service closing a large area of Biscayne Bay National Park to boating and fishing. This could have national implications.

Wednesday, the final day was the best. This included the morning General Session with a number of very good speakers, afternoon Hill Meetings followed by a Congressional Reception at the Rayburn House Office Building that evening. At the Hill Meetings I met with Senator Ben Cardin and Rep. Andy Harris, at which I expressed the same concerns as I did at Tuesday's Hill Meetings. At all the meetings and the General Session, business cards were exchanged, so this will provide the Boating Community, including CBYCA and NBF, with a good deal of exposure and recognition.

I was able to meet Thom Dammrich, President of NMMA, and expressed our appreciation for the very good ABC meeting, for all their arrangements, the good speakers and the Hill meeting schedules they provided. All in all it was the best meeting I have attended.

Officials explore establishing Annapolis, Maryland as a No Discharge Zone: As reported in The Capital newspaper, the Severn River Commission seeks to establish Annapolis as an EPA designated NDZ. It is in fact already illegal to pump out untreated sewage into the water and has been since 1972, in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act. Boats large enough to have a holding tank must hold the fecal material until it can be pumped out at a marina or the city's pump out boat which is operated by the Harbormaster's Office, and only costs \$5. For boats equipped with Type 1 or Type 2 Marine Sanitation Devices which chemically treat any waste, they have long been approved by the Federal Government.

Storm water runoff from farms into the Severn River and from residential lawns which contain nitrogen from the fertilizer they use are a far greater pollution source than from approved MSDs on recreational boats. If all the registered boats in Maryland used their MSDs at one time, it would take many years to equal the volume and nitrogen content emitted by storm water runoff. Overflow from the Baltimore treatment plant, caused by a storm many years ago, caused huge quantities of waste water flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

It is very clear that to declare Annapolis a NDZ is totally useless, given the State and Federal regulations already in place. In addition to declaring a useless and unnecessary Annapolis NDZ, it was further stated the NDZ would help eliminate barriers that motivate people to dump illegally. This implies that recreational boaters may not be following existing regulations, and may put them in a bad light to the general public. Further, it was just reported in USA TODAY that "The health of the Chesapeake Bay improved in 2015, marking three years of gains over the past four years, according to a new report by the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science."