

G.10 - USPS LOBBYING POLICY

Squadron, district and national officers continue to be authorized and encouraged to actively lobby government officials and legislators to inform them of USPS policies that support safe boating through education and to support and encourage government action and legislation consistent with those policies and principles and to discourage action and legislation contrary to USPS policies.

The Lobbying function serves an important purpose in disseminating United States Power Squadrons (USPS) safe boating messages to the public and providing a vehicle to support recreational boating safety measures at federal, state and local government levels. Through the lobbying process, USPS members advise government officials on matters involving recreational boating activities to influence legislation which advances the safety and education mission of USPS.

It is essential that there be a thoughtful, organized and coordinated effort to maximize the effectiveness of our lobbying. To the extent possible and as time allows, efforts should be coordinated with the Squadron, District and National Legislative representative. To be effective, USPS lobbying policy statements are authorized by the Board of Directors as the highest level of USPS management and published to be generally consistent across the organization.

The Board of Directors has approved policy statements on the following important issues and will continue to update the policy statements as appropriate:

- Life Jacket Position Statement:
[http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/policy_position/Life Jacket Position Statement](http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/policy_position/Life_Jacket_Position_Statement)
- Ballast Water Issue:
http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/policy_position/Ballast_Water
- Boater Education and Licensing:
http://www.usps.org/national/govprcom/documents/policy_position/Position_Ed_Licensing

Members are encouraged to advocate and present USPS position statements to local and state government entities and to identify them as having the support of USPS and its membership. The Government and Partner Relations Committee (GPRCom) role is to identify and help prioritize issues of interest to USPS and to assist the Board of Directors in development of policy in order to influence the direction of legislation pertaining to these issues.

Squadrons and members are expected to provide local and individual positions on their behalf (but not on behalf of USPS) related to issues not covered by Board of Director approved policy statements.

Additionally, USPS members are encouraged to serve on Area Maritime Security and other boating-related committees at local, state and national levels with guidance and approval of GPRCom. The Government and Partner Relations Committee shall at all

times be responsible to the Board of Directors and will keep the Board advised as to the status of active issues on a Periodic basis.

(Approved by the BOD 4 December 2009)

Procedures for Addressing State Legislative Issues

- Members, Squadrons and Districts are encouraged to coordinate with GPRCom representatives on issues relating to USPS Policy. The immediate point of contact is the State Legislative Representative.
- The GPRCom does not have to approve everything that might be considered lobbying or lobbying related. If there is a clear USPS Position Statement, USPS members should use common sense as to approach. However, State Legislative Representatives and Team Leaders are to be kept informed of any lobbying activity.

Guidelines for Requesting New or Revised Position/Policy Statements

- A concise statement of the policy recommended for adoption;
- Statement explaining the need for the lobbying policy as it relates to boating safety, boater education or other activities of USPS, and the urgency for adopting the policy;
- Supporting documentation explaining the need for the proposed policy;
- The above information should be presented to the Government and Partner Relations Committee Chairman (GPRCom) for submission to the Board of Directors.

Policy Advice and Interpretation

GPRCom members are available for advice and consultation about policy statements and presentations of information related to the USPS Position and encourage questions and comments to support the lobbying effort.

Nothing in this description is to be construed as a prohibition of an individual member testifying as an individual on his/her own behalf and not representing USPS.