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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2509

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July 18, 2023

Admiral Linda Fagan  
Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20032

Dear Commandant Fagan,

I write concerning the United States Coast Guard's statutory obligation to issue new safety regulations for DUKW amphibious vehicles, also known as "duck boats."

As you may know, on July 19, 2018, Missouri experienced one of the deadliest boating accidents in U.S. history. An amphibious duck boat capsized during a severe thunderstorm on Table Rock Lake in Branson, Missouri, tragically claiming the lives of 17 people. That is why, when I joined the Senate, one of the first bills I introduced was the *Duck Boat Safety Enhancement Act of 2020*. This legislation aimed to prevent similar accidents in the future by requiring amphibious vehicles meet minimum buoyancy requirements, weather preparedness standards, and new canopy regulations.

As you know, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023* included this legislation, which requires you to "initiate a rulemaking to establish additional safety standards for DUKW amphibious passenger vessels" within "6 months." President Biden signed this into law on December 23, 2022. It has now been over six months.

While there are some indications you have begun work on these new standards, I urge you to complete this process and issue the new guidance as soon as possible. It is critically important that we ensure the safety of all passengers and prevent future accidents. By August 1, 2023, please provide my office an update on the status of this regulation and your expected timeline for issuing the rule.

Sincerely,



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator