



NEWS RELEASE

Dometic Corporation - Sanitation Systems President Leads Push For Clean Water

Onboard Sanitation Systems Builder Outlines Opposition to Saxton Bill

BIG PRAIRIE, OH – MAY 2003 – Concerned that boaters will lose access to certain waters or that additional shellfishing beds will be closed to aquaculture, Ed McKiernan, Dometic Corporation - Sanitation Systems president, has issued an opposition White Paper to H.R. 1027, known as the Saxton Bill. Saying that the best policy is to not dump anything into sensitive waters, McKiernan is calling for increased education of boaters, marina operators and boat manufacturers to the proper use of holding tanks and pumpout facilities.

“I believe that the Saxton Bill, while well intentioned, may actually allow users of Type I sanitation devices to unintentionally dump into No Discharge Zones insufficiently treated sewage and harmful chemicals that are toxic to humans and aquatic life,” said McKiernan. “On the other hand, holding tanks, a Type III device, are proven, long-term methods for reducing boat pollution going into rivers, bays and offshore waters.”

A Type I Marine Sanitation Device (MSD), as defined by U.S. Coast Guard regulations, treats sewage with disinfectant chemicals and by other means before discharging waste into the water. Type II MSDs must meet a higher level of sewage treatment. With a Type III MSD, which is basically a holding tank, when a boat reaches a marina with a pumpout station, the sewage is transferred in most cases to a municipal waste treatment facility.

-more-

Page 2 of 2 – Saxton Bill Opposition

“Some Type I devices discharge chlorine, which is highly toxic to marine life. Others claim to treat effluent as effectively as municipal water treatment plants, but in reality they do not. Type I devices are not subject to the same rigorous operating parameters that municipal plants must meet. Because boaters don’t know that their Type I system could be producing inadequately treated sewage, the impact of the Saxton Bill will weaken existing efforts by communities that have established No Discharge Zones (NDZ) to protect public health and improve water quality,” McKiernan asserts. “Given current FDA concerns, Type I devices are unlikely to be an acceptable alternative for discharging waste into No Discharge Zones. They are not as effective or ecologically sound as they need to be.”

McKiernan advocates the proper use of Type III MSDs because “in the 17 states where No Discharge Zones are in place, boaters and marinas have recognized the importance of doing the right thing by using holding tanks and pumpout stations.”

Dometic Corporation - Sanitation Systems markets SeaLand® and VacuFlush® sanitation systems, holding tanks, TankWatch® level monitors, TankMaster™ discharge controls, vent filters, OdorSafe® Plus hose, toilet tissues and deodorants, and many other accessories. Founded in 1984 as SeaLand Technology, Inc, the manufacturing facilities are located in Big Prairie, OH, with corporate headquarters in Elkhart, IN.

Dometic is a leading international supplier of specialty refrigeration and products and systems for increased comfort away from home. Dometic provides Recreation Vehicle and Pleasure Boat Systems and Special Refrigeration Systems for use mainly in the leisure industry, the hotel sector and medical markets. Dometic has achieved leading global market positions by focusing on its strong customer relationships and developing innovative solutions. Dometic has production facilities in 10 countries, its own sales and marketing corporations in 35 countries, plus approximately 65 distributors globally. Dometic employs 4,000 worldwide, and is wholly owned by EQT, a leading private equity group in Northern Europe.

###