

MEMORANDUM

To: All House Members

From: Representative Kevin Boyle

Date: August 20, 2013

Re: **Request for Co-sponsorship: Prohibiting the sale of certain Laser Pointers**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation prohibiting the sale of laser pointers with power exceeding one milliwatt of output.

During the week of August 11, 2013, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reported incidents at Newark Liberty International Airport in which two commercial airliners and a private helicopter were targeted and illuminated by lasers. Although no injuries were reported as a result of the incidents, federal law enforcement authorities have stated that laser pointers put airline crews and passengers at risk as they can cause temporary blindness in pilots.

Over the same period a Philadelphia man was arrested for illuminating a police helicopter with a laser pointer. The beam of light hit the officers in the eyes, resulting in pain and temporary loss of vision. This incident marked the second occurrence in Philadelphia in the same week.

Under this legislation, the sale or offer for sale of laser pointers with a power output over one milliwatt would be prohibited, with violation of the act resulting in a fine ranging from \$500 - \$1000. The legislation does not apply to laser pointers affixed to a firearm or used by licensed health care providers.

Media across the country are reporting incidents such as these in increasing numbers. Ensuring the safety of our citizens, including law enforcement personnel, airline crews and pilots is an important priority that should not be overlooked.

I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation.