

DATED OCTOBER 4, 2016

**DUTCHESS COUNTY SUPERVISORS AND MAYORS ASSOCIATION OFFER COAST GUARD
COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED HUDSON RIVER ANCHORAGES**

WHEREAS, the Hudson River Valley from New York City to Albany, including Dutchess County, is a National Heritage Area of extraordinary natural beauty and major historic, cultural, and economic importance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Coast Guard is soliciting comments and concerns from the public on a proposal to establish over forty commercial tanker berths at ten sites on the Hudson from Yonkers to Kingston; and

WHEREAS, seven of the ten proposed sites are in or next to Dutchess County: Kingston Flats, Port Ewen, Big Rock Point, Milton, Newburgh, Tompkins Point and Montrose Point; and

WHEREAS, the birthing of large oil tankers threatens our drinking water with pollution from oil leaks, creates river bottom "scarring" by anchors and anchor chains, endangers the habitats of wildlife, creates noise and night-time light pollution disturbing the peace and tranquility of residents, and destroys the natural scenic beauty of the River and its view shed; and

WHEREAS, history has shown, as in the case of the spill in the Mississippi River in 2014, that clean-up efforts are relatively futile, with 2 percent or less reclamation, and

WHEREAS, decades of industrial pollution and abuse has turned our River, this National Heritage Area, into one of America's largest EPA Superfund sites, stretching from Hudson Falls all the to New York City; and

WHEREAS, our local governments have spent years fighting to recover, protect, and preserve our vital Hudson River environment through initiatives including the NY State LWRP/LWRA, the Greenway Compact, comprehensive plans, and land use and zoning laws; and

WHEREAS, this proposal risks undoing our efforts and re-industrializing the Hudson River; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayor's Association urges the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct public meetings in the very communities affected by the concerns stated above, and to conduct a rigorous Federal Environmental review, and to present this document as a statement of our position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayor's Association does not believe that sufficient need exists now or ever to subject our communities to the impacts and risks enumerated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayor's Association strongly recommends that the expansion request be denied in order to protect and preserve this fragile, vital, and historic Hudson River for the benefit of our communities and for the public to whom it belongs.