



SUPPORT

A. 6825-A/S. 5197-A (Barrett/Serino)

An ACT to amend the environmental conservation law and the navigation law, in relation to consideration of environmental conditions when permitting petroleum-bearing vessels to enter navigable waters

The New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) supports A. 6825-A/S. 5197-A (Barrett/Serino), which would allow New York State to consider environmental conditions when permitting petroleum-bearing vessels in the navigable waters of the Hudson River.

The US Coast Guard recently issued notice of proposed plans to establish new anchorage grounds, potentially creating 43 new vessel berths along the middle and lower stretches of the Hudson River. Communities along the River have justifiable concerns about the economic, health, and safety implications of the presence of oil barges. Even a minor spill caused by a collision or grounding could undo decades of work to clean up the Hudson and support waterfront communities.

A. 6825-A/S. 5197-A would protect the coastal habitats and waterfront communities of the Hudson River by authorizing the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in consultation with the Coast Guard, Hudson River pilots, and other officials, to establish minimum conditions including visibility, weather, significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats, and environmental justice community impacts under which petroleum-bearing vessels can enter the Hudson River and enter or leave any port along the River. DEC would also be able, in consultation, to establish tanker-avoidance zones that petroleum-bearing vessels would be unable to enter or drop anchor in except in case of emergency.

NYLCV therefore supports A. 6825-A/S. 5197-A and urges its passage.

Contact:
Patrick McClellan
(212) 361-6350 x 209
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

