



FRANK K. SKARTADOS
Assemblyman 104th District

Dutchess, Orange, and
Ulster Counties

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

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Legislative Commission on
Rural Resources

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Sports Development
Transportation

Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110
August 5, 2016

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

The Hudson River is vitally important to the Hudson Valley and all of New York, because of its unique ecosystem, its notable history and its beautiful scenery that brings in thousands of tourists, who recreate and shop at local businesses, farms, and wineries. It is imperative that we do all we can to protect our river. I am writing today out of concern for the proposed rule to establish 10 new anchorage sites on the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston. I join with local elected officials, Riverkeeper and Scenic Hudson to call for public hearings on this project.

Public meetings are needed to better understand the risks posed by the barges and tugboats to the ecology of the river as well as the impact on the surrounding communities. Research shows that the habitats of some fish have been affected by previous anchorage sites.¹ Vessels containing volatile crude oil and petroleum products pose a serious risk. An anchored boat containing these hazardous materials could catch fire or spill toxic oil in the river. The sites would also take a toll on the scenic beauty of our region; at least three locations would block the view from popular tourist attractions.² Moreover, many in our community are concerned about the impact of constant noise, light and smoke from anchored boats, as many of the proposed sites are nearby homes and businesses.³ Nobody wants to live next to a ship rumbling as they try to get to sleep and belching smoke into their yard as they're sitting out on a nice summer evening.

While the public comment period is open for another month, I urge you to schedule public hearings. This would be the most effective way to share information, answer questions and hear concerns. I would be happy to assist you in organizing the hearings.

¹riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Hudson-Anchorage-Pub-Mtg-Request-.pdf

²heraldcourier.com/news/groups-raise-concerns-about-hudson-river-anchorage-plans/article_26caa829-1b87-5553-b96f-b6a24fec5f10.html

³riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Hudson-Anchorage-Pub-Mtg-Request-.pdf

I appreciate your prompt attention to this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further at SkartadosF@nyassembly.gov or at 845-562-0888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Skartados". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Skartados
Member of Assembly
104th District