



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

MARCUS J. MOLINARO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 17, 2016

Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch
Coast Guard First District

Phone: 627-223-8351

Email: craig.d.lapiejko@uscg.mil

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

The Hudson River, with its beautiful waterfronts, irreplaceable ecosystems, and rich history, is a tremendous asset to Dutchess County, and is part of what makes us "Distinctly Dutchess." As such, I join Scenic Hudson and others in their requests for public meetings regarding the proposed rule establishing ten new anchorage locations along the Hudson River between Yonkers, NY and Kingston, NY. These meetings would allow for essential public input, as well as due consideration of environmental and community impacts of this proposed project. Also, it would be an opportunity for the public to learn about the project's intended purpose, as well as express any concerns. I would be more than happy to help host such meetings, as to ensure residents the opportunity to express their feedback in a timely and appropriate manner.

While the proposed anchorages are not physically within the Dutchess County borders, I share the concerns about potential environmental impacts. Like so many others, I am deeply worried about the potential use of the proposed anchorage areas by vessels carrying crude oil or refined petroleum products. This use increases the chances for an oil spill or exposure to pollutants, which creates increased risks for the immediate and surrounding areas of the Hudson River. The Hudson River is home to many precious species, and this project places their aquatic habitats at risk. Thus, the environmental impact could be significant, and has the potential to extend far beyond the immediately-affected area of Yonkers to Kingston.

Also, the Hudson River is utilized for tourism and recreation throughout the Hudson Valley region. The increased number of commercial vessels at these historic waterfronts could have a negative effect on the natural beauty of these areas and potentially present major changes to these iconic settings.

The Hudson River is an irreplaceable part of our communities. With a massive undertaking such as this proposed project, public opinion is of the utmost importance. While I realize comments are still being accepted, public meetings are the most efficient way to ensure that the residents of these communities are properly informed, and their concerns are properly considered. So, please respond quickly to the request of Scenic Hudson, and others, and provide residents the opportunity to learn about, comment on, and play an active role in such an important decision.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me at countyexec@dutchessny.gov or (845) 486-2000 should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Molinaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive