



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

July 29, 2016

Mr. Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch Coast Guard First District

Via email: craig.d.lapiejko@uscg.mil

RE: Proposed Rule to establish anchorage locations on the Hudson River

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

This letter is to express the concern Westchester County shares with neighboring counties and Scenic Hudson, as well as other interested parties, in the proposed establishment of ten anchorage locations along the Hudson River, including two within Westchester. The Hudson River, a National Heritage River, has a rich history, vital and irreplaceable ecosystems and majestic waterfronts. It serves as a tourist attraction and is an integral part of the county's economy. Therefore, I am requesting public meetings in Westchester regarding the proposed rule establishing these anchorage locations.

Such meetings would afford the public input and give due consideration to the environmental and economic impacts of the proposed project. It would also increase awareness and educate the public as to the purpose of the project. Westchester County would gladly host such a public forum.

Of primary concern is the potential use of the proposed anchorage sites by vessels carrying crude oil, petroleum and chemical products and other materials that, should they leak or spill into the river, would cause pollution and negatively impact the river's ecosystem,

As noted, the Hudson is a central part of Westchester's tourism and recreational opportunities. An increase in commercial vessels at these historic waterfronts could adversely impact the natural beauty and interfere with these uses.

The Hudson River is one of Westchester's focal points. Any potential impact must be studied and weighed measuring the benefit against the possible harm to the river and the consequences that would follow. While written comments are still being accepted, it is essential that public comment be allowed via open meetings. This is the most transparent and efficient manner to ensure that residents and taxpayers are properly and fully heard.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Astorino
Westchester County Executive

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