



SANDRA R. GALEF
Assemblywoman 95th District

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August 10, 2016

RDML Linda Fagan, District Commander
First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Ave.
Boston, MA 02110

Dear RDML Fagan,

I am writing today to express my concern about the proposal put forth by The Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug and Barge Committee on January 21, 2016. This proposal, which details prospective sites for 30 new anchorages in various areas of the river, has raised red flags for me and many of my constituents, as three of the anchorages are in my district, and an additional eleven are in neighboring districts.

My number one concern is the safety of those who live near and use the river, and there are several considerations that need to be made in the locations of these anchorages. The first, and perhaps most pressing, is the proximity of the barges to other man-made dangers, including a gas pipeline and a nuclear power station. The Tompkins Cove location, which is directly across the river from Verplanck, a hamlet in my district, is bordering the area of the Algonquin Incremental Market pipeline, which is under construction and is very close to the Indian Point Nuclear Energy Center. Being that many of the barges on the Hudson are carrying potential hazards, such as the highly volatile Bakken Crude, I am concerned about the safety of placing these vessels in such close proximity to a large flow of gas and two active nuclear reactors and their waste. I also want to be sure that you are aware of a currently on-going risk assessment at the request of Governor Cuomo into the safety of the Algonquin Incremental Market Pipeline's siting in close proximity to the power plant.

The second safety issue that comes to mind is the recreational use of the Hudson River. Many people live near and travel to the Hudson to use small boats, including motorized, sail powered, and paddled craft. I am sure you are aware of the danger of a "sieve" in the water, which is especially dangerous for small boats, such as canoes and kayaks. The regular anchoring of a large vessel could create conditions that would endanger those who use the water for exercise and relaxation. This is especially concerning to me as it is a very narrow area of the river that widens shortly downriver, leading to changes in the water conditions and activity that could be distracting to large and small boat operators alike.



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Additionally, I am uncomfortable with the proximity of the Montrose Point and Tompkins Cove anchorages to each other. Spread roughly two and a quarter miles apart, they would significantly change the usage and accessibility of the water due to congestion and blocking off a significant portion of beautiful landscape.

I find it troubling that the information about this project was only made available to local officials and the public seven months after the proposal. I strongly encourage the United States Coast Guard and all other parties involved in this project to facilitate a discussion whereby the public may be able to further learn about the costs and benefits of the proposed additional anchorages. I would certainly be willing to facilitate such a public meeting that the Coast Guard would hold. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sandra R. Galef

N.Y.S. Assemblywoman, 95th District