

July 21, 2016

Mr. Craig Lapiejko  
Waterways Management Specialist  
First Coast Guard District  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA. 02110

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

The Town of Esopus in Ulster County, New York has the longest acreage along the Hudson River of all the Towns in New York State. As a guardian of our beautiful river, we are most concerned with Federal Register Notice No. 81 FR 37168 titled Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River, Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY.

We are calling for public hearings to address the many concerns we have for our waterway. The meeting would allow the public to understand the purpose of the changes in the anchorage locations and how these changes would affect our community. The Town of Esopus would be more than willing to be a host location for the public hearings at our Town Hall on 284 Broadway in Ulster Park, New York.

The Town Board is most concerned with the anchoring of vessels carrying crude oil and other petroleum products, for it creates the risk of contaminating our water intake valve which provides Hudson River drinking water to 4,500 residents within the Port Ewen Water District. The river is the only source of water for this community. This intake valve could also be damaged by the anchoring of these vessels which include Kingston Flats South, Big Rock Point and the sites in the Port Ewen area.

Our environment along the Hudson provides a healthy and secure place for our sturgeon and other species of marine life which now may be impacted. Tourism along the Hudson would be significantly damaged by the anchoring of these vessels in our town and in the Kingston area. The noise and light pollution would also be a problem. Kingston and the Town of Esopus provide the recreational area for several marinas, kayaking, crew boating and launching facilities on the Rondout Creek and the Hudson River.

Please consider our invitation to host the public hearings in our area and give our residents the availability to comment on how the changes in the anchoring will influence our community. We anticipate an early response.

Sincerely yours,

Diane L. McCord, Supervisor

Cc: Town Board, Environmental Board  
Port Ewen Water & Sewer Board, Waterfront Advisory Board

