

July 23, 2016

RIN 1625-AA01

Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River;

Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to strongly support the Hudson River Anchorages as proposed be approved as presented in the Advance Notice Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM).

The importance of the Hudson river to waterborne commerce cannot be stressed enough. The river serves as a major highway linking Albany and the citizens of New York to the ports of New York and New Jersey and in turn, the rest of the world. Waterborne commerce is safe, economical, and environmentally friendly because it removes countless trucks from our already overcrowded streets of New York and the surrounding region.

The proposed federally designated anchorages have long served as commonly used safe anchorages, and now need to be federally approved to protect navigation safety when and if vessels must anchor unexpectedly due to diminishing weather and visibility, during emergencies, or during the winter months when mariners navigate the Hudson River predominately during day light hours. Advancing these anchorages to Federally Designated Anchorages will preserve these strategically sited anchorages that are critical to navigation safety and trade. Preserving these anchorages will enable the Hudson River to remain a vital highway for the marine transportation system, and will ensure that upstate New York remains a valuable player in that system. These anchorages play a vital role in allowing our mariners to operate their vessels safely and ensure that they may do so with little or no impact on the surrounding communities.

Opponents to these anchorages state that the anchorages may have a negative effect on recreational boating, but these same people fail to realize that many of the products they use, and the gas they're using in their boats and vehicles comes directly from the tugs, barges and ships they are fighting against. I feel that those opposing these anchorages do not realize the challenges facing the mariners who operate these vessels, and the important role that these anchorages play in our local economy.

New York is our home. Over 31,000 New York City residents earn their livelihood in the maritime industry. I wish to thank you in advance for your considerations to the needs of Navigation Safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Harrigan

Chief Mate Reinauer Transportations