



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

ELLEN C. JAFFEE  
Assemblymember 97<sup>TH</sup> District

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Chair, Committee on Oversight,  
Analysis and Investigation  
Environmental Conservation  
Children and Families  
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Higher Education  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce, and Industry  
Mental Health  
Steering Committee

August 10, 2016

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

**Re: Proposed Rulemaking:  
Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River; Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY  
Docket Number USCG-2016-0132**

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

Thank you for bringing this proposed rulemaking to the public and for soliciting, at this critical juncture, public comments and concerns.

As a Member of the Assembly Committee on Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry and the Committee on Environmental Conservation, I am writing on behalf of the residents of Rockland County, NY, my constituents in the 97th Assembly District and the communities I represent, including the Hudson River Villages of Nyack, South Nyack, Piermont, Grandview-on-Hudson, Upper Grandview, and the Hamlet of Palisades, to express my serious concerns regarding industry's proposal to establish anchorage grounds for commercial vessels along the Hudson River at 10 locations from Yonkers to Kingston.

I am also requesting that the United States Coast Guard hold numerous, accessible public meetings that will allow for robust, substantive public input on a proposal that, if made official, will present public safety hazards, and negatively affect our environment, the ecology of the river, and our very quality of life.

My concerns about the environmental impacts include light and noise pollution, scarring of the river bottom by anchors and chains that would disturb river bottom habitat, and increasing industrialization of the river, particularly the increased risk of barge accidents and oil spills, a serious concern since the surge in shipments of Bakken crude oil in 2012. While I appreciate the best efforts by the Coast Guard and the state Department of Environmental Conservation to better prepare in the event of an oil spill, the undisputed fact remains that any oil recovered from the river bottom would be negligible.



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At a time when many of our communities have long-term waterfront revitalization goals that will increase tourism, create jobs, and boost our local economies, turning the Hudson River into a crowded highway carrying oil to foreign countries, putting oil and profits ahead of everything else in this scenic Hudson Valley, is unacceptable.

The Hudson River is vital to the quality of life in our communities as it has been for generations and must be for this generation and for generations to come.

Again, I respectfully request that the Coast Guard hold numerous, accessible public hearings to address, in an open, transparent process, these serious environmental and community concerns.

Sincerely,

Ellen C. Jaffee  
Member of Assembly, 97<sup>th</sup> AD