

TERRENCE P. MURPHY
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT

ROOM 817
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-3111

691 EAST MAIN STREET
1ST FLOOR
SHRUB OAK, NY 10588
(914) 962-2624

E-MAIL ADDRESS
MURPHY@NYSENATE.GOV



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIR
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REVIEW COMMISSION

CO-CHAIR
HEROIN TASK FORCE

COMMITTEES

BANKS

ETHICS

HEALTH

INSURANCE

INVESTIGATIONS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

LABOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MENTAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

July 28, 2016

Rear Admiral Steven D. Poulin
U.S. Coast Guard, Commander
First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Admiral Poulin,

I write to you today on behalf of the residents of the 40th Senate District and as the Chairman of the Administrative Regulatory Review Commission for New York State. Recently, it has been brought to my attention that the United States Coast Guard is seeking feedback regarding a federal proposal to increase anchorage grounds along the Hudson River.

After careful consideration, and largely due to the lack of transparent information regarding this matter, I do not believe establishing sixteen new anchorage locations is in the best interest of the Hudson Valley. There is far too much at risk to allow Washington's cloaked bureaucracy from instituting this potentially dangerous regulation without proper discourse and transparency.

This proposal brings forth a number of safety concerns that I do not believe are being fully vetted. We live in a very different world today than we did before September 11th. The unfortunate reality is these barges could pose a significant homeland security risk since they will be unmanned and are not required to be properly lit. In addition, these barges will pose a significant safety risk for recreational boaters. Earlier this year an 84-foot tugboat collided with a construction barge near the Tappan Zee Bridge in the early morning hours which killed three people. Adding similar barges to these waters will only increase the risk of this type of incident happening again.

Further, the ecological health of the Hudson River, the river communities such as Sleepy Hollow, Montrose, Verplank and Peekskill, cannot adequately be protected from the potential of a disaster. New York State has invested significant resources in an effort to restore the Hudson River Estuary. Should this proposal be approved, more than 2,000 acres of the estuary will be used as anchorage grounds. I need only to remind you of the oil tanker Stena Primorsk, which in 2012 was carrying twelve million gallons of crude oil from Albany when it grounded near Bethlehem putting a 13-foot hole in the hull. Thankfully, a second inner hull remained intact but this incident clearly demonstrated the potential dangers associated with transporting crude oil along the river which we garner our regional identity from.

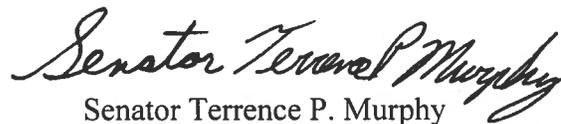


Furthermore, several river towns that I represent have invested millions of dollars in an effort to revitalize their waterfronts. A potential economic juggernaut, this proposal would have an adverse impact on the progress already made which is focused on the serenity and natural beauty of the Hudson River. Allowing large transports to anchor in the vicinity of these projects will reverse the economic strides being made.

In order to properly address the concerns I have voiced to you, as well as those of the residents of the 40th Senate District, I urge you to schedule a series of public meetings. Further, I would be willing to utilize my office to help schedule and organize these important information sessions.

I sincerely hope my offer for a productive and transparent partnership is acted upon.

Sincerely,


Senator Terrence P. Murphy