



SHELLEY MAYER
Assemblymember 90th District

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September 13, 2016

Mr. Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch
Coast Guard First District
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY. As the New York State Assemblymember representing Yonkers, I write to express my opposition to this project. I am asking the U.S. Coast Guard to reject the proposal to use the Hudson River to accommodate vastly expanded, industrial shipping activities.

The City of Yonkers is the largest river community in Westchester County and the fourth largest city in New York State. After years of economic struggle, it is beginning to turn a corner. With the deindustrialization of the economy, Yonkers worked hard to shift from promoting industrial activity around the Hudson River to investing in the revitalization of the waterfront by restoring parks and replacing closed industrial facilities with new mixed-use residential and business spaces. With public and private investment, abandoned industrial sites have been transformed into marinas and mooring areas to meet the demands of an emerging boating community and growing recreational use. The proposed plan to establish new anchorages threatens the City's careful and deliberate efforts to invest and invigorate a community and economy that had been abandoned.

In addition, the proposed anchorage grounds represent threats of potential fuel spills polluting the water or more catastrophic incidents such as fuel barge explosions. Not only do these create environmental threats, but they pose risks to the burgeoning economy, waterfront property values and associated tax revenues. The City of Yonkers cannot afford to place so much of its economic, cultural and environmental revitalization at risk.

In sum, as heavy manufacturers withdrew from cities like Yonkers, the communities found new paths forward that built upon and celebrated their environmental and cultural assets, particularly the Hudson River. The proposed new anchorages threaten the City's rebirth and most important assets. The effected communities have invested too much in their rebirth to have it endangered by these new anchorages. I respectfully request that the U.S. Coast Guard reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shelley B. Mayer