

August 25, 2016

FROM: Candi Vene, 11 Fox Hollow, Park Ridge, NJ 07656

TO: Mr. Craig Lapiejko, USCG Waterways Management Branch

RE: Proposed barge mooring sites in the Hudson River

Dear Mr. Lapiejko,

The proposed new mooring sites for large barges has all of us who boat and/or live near the Hudson River very concerned.

Such a decision should not be made without a great deal of research and input from environmental experts as well as all impacted parties.

Therefore, as a preliminary step in understanding the views of all concerned parties, I would urge you to hold *well publicized* open meetings; at convenient times and locations so that as many voices as possible can be heard.


Many of us have concerns that companies within the oil industry would be the ultimate winners if such a decision were made to create these mooring sites for huge barges. I, for one, would like to know if my information is correct. I want to hear ALL sides. With due respect, I also think it is imperative for someone in your position to hear all sides and consider the *ultimate* good for the most people – and, most importantly, the river.

From what I understand thus far, there is little to no benefit to such mooring sites for the riverfront communities, private boaters, fishermen, or the river itself. I have read NY Times articles, talked to marine environmental researchers at Rutgers and read the legal brief prepared for Riverkeeper.

The Hudson has been abused by industry in the '50s and 60's – perhaps unknowingly – significantly reclaimed - somewhat successfully; but is now facing a very big danger of damage once again from the oil industry. It would be heartbreaking to go backwards.

As the representative for all of us, it is the responsibility of your office to hold these hearings. It is crucial that you do so for the protection of a significant natural resource which is again being threatened. Unlike the past, this time we know more – and we should know better.

Sincerely


Candi Vene'