



FCWC

Federated Conservationists
of Westchester County

September 1, 2016

Dear Commander Poulin:

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ALICIA MOLLOY

I am writing today to state the opposition of Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) to the proposal that would allow the establishment of 10 new anchorage locations with more than 40 berths along the Hudson River. Like many others who have voiced their concerns, we do not want to see the Hudson River used as a 'parking lot'.

FCWC is a 501(c)(3) environmental and educational organization existing under the not-for-profit corporation law of New York State since 1965. FCWC represents concerned citizens, many community organizations, educators, and diverse professionals committed to work to preserve and rehabilitate the natural resources of Westchester County, in this case, the Hudson River.

There are many environmental concerns associated with this proposal, perhaps the most notable is the risk to water quality and the river ecosystem if crude oil, petroleum or other chemical products carried by any of these barges were accidentally leaked into the Hudson. The consequences a leak of this kind would be extremely difficult to clean up and could have irreversible impacts on our river ecosystem. We are also concerned about the impact that additional barge anchorage activity would have on the river bottom. Permanent moorings, along with scarring on the subsurface caused by anchors and anchor chains, can pose a threat to aquatic habitats, some of which are home to endangered species. Beyond the contamination risk and potential of scarring, around the clock noise and light pollution from bright lights and engines will have a negative impact on wildlife and on the peacefulness of the riverfront. In addition, this proposal will impact the view shed of the Hudson.

The Hudson River is a magnificent resource and river town communities have made significant investments in money and time to clean up their waterfronts to protect the river and its resources and to encourage people to come back to the Hudson. This is the reality we want for the Hudson River. Lining the river shore with brightly lit, noisy barges, it will destroy the progress we have all made in protecting the river, and will impede the access to the water that these communities have worked so hard for.

Taking these points into consideration, along with the many other comments you will be receiving, we strongly urge you to consider this proposal no further until a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with federal guidelines, policies, regulations, and laws is conducted to assess the full impact of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carole Griffiths, FCWC President