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## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

**Eliot L. Engel**

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August 26, 2016

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

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

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

In a submission earlier this month, I raised serious questions about the economic, environmental, and security impacts of the above-referenced Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to establish new anchorage grounds for commercial barges along the Hudson River. I am writing now to update and expand upon my earlier comments.

First, I want to inform you that I sent a letter with some of my New York colleagues to Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), asking her agency to comment on the potential impacts of the ANPR on the critical habitat of two federally endangered species in the Hudson River – the Atlantic sturgeon and the shortnosed sturgeon.

Second, I want to draw your attention to some of the federal designations bestowed upon the Hudson River and the surrounding region that intensify the consultation and planning requirements for development. Specifically, Congress established the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the Department of the Interior created the Hudson River National Historic Landmark District, and the Environmental Protection Agency classified the Hudson as an American Heritage River. These designations work separately and together to protect natural resources, preserve historic and cultural sites, and revitalize communities all along the Hudson River. For additional information, I refer you to the excellent submission from the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic dated June 30, 2016.

Finally, while my initial comments mentioned the tremendous strides that some of our local communities have been making to revitalize their waterfronts, I want to take this opportunity to single out the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson. Hastings-on-Hudson has taken

historic steps to remediate its heavily polluted waterfront, but its work is not nearly done as its shoreline remains contaminated with PCB's and heavy metals that have accumulated there as a result of past industrial activities. These contaminants are a target of a substantial PCB remediation effort that will continue through at least 2020. I encourage the Coast Guard to give due consideration to the possibility that establishing a mooring area near Hastings-on-Hudson could stir up long-dormant sediments and potentially release PCBs and other contaminants into the river, complicate the ongoing cleanup effort, and potentially devastate the Village's ultimate goal of turning its waterfront into a vibrant destination and recreational area for residents and visitors alike.

Thank you again for your careful consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress