

August 29, 2016

Craig Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch
Coast Guard First District

Dear Mr. Lapiejko,

The Village of Tivoli is hereby adding our collective voice to the chorus expressing concern about the request from the Maritime Association and American Waterways Operators to increase the number of federally designated anchorages between the Port of New York and Albany from two to twelve.

While no anchorages are proposed within our “reach” the impact of having eight new berths (in addition to the existing berths at Hyde Park), the increase in traffic that will be encouraged and enabled by this change will have dramatic impact. Literally. Our shoreline is within yards of the channel and is being eroded by the wake of each tanker and barge that passes.

Aside from this obvious and measurable impact, we are worried about the environmental risks. Providing these new proposed berths would allow more than eight ships to cue up at a time—before the channel narrows—ensuring an endless, noisy, diesel parade just off our shore. This would essentially cut off river access to the recreational boaters, diminish the quality of life of residents, and severely compromise the public’s experience of this designated “Scenic Area of Statewide Significance”.

Most worrisome—and potentially disastrous—is the effect that this would have on the coves and tidal marshes of the Tivoli Bays Wildlife Management Area, and the furred, feathered, and finned inhabitants therein. This significant and sensitive site is imperiled by every petroleum-product bearing tanker that passes by—increasing the traffic increases the risk. We are well aware that accidents do occur, as evidenced by the running aground of a dirt bearing barge on the rocks of Magdalen Island in 2013.

We stand with the Dutchess County Executive, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, and other Hudson River communities in requesting public hearings on this vitally important topic.

Sincerely,

The Village of Tivoli Board of Trustees