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August 30, 2016

L.L. Fagan  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commander First Coast Guard District  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02110

**RE: ID: USCG201601320001**  
**Federal Register Number: 201613701**

Dear Admiral Fagan:

Please accept this letter as my comments, due by September 7, 2016, in regard to the above proposed regulation, regarding planned "Anchorage Grounds" in the Hudson River.

My staff and I have reviewed the documentation available, as provided as part of the proposed Rulemaking guidance, and it does leave some substantial concerns.

The greatest concern at this time is the environmental impact of the proposed anchorages which will be placed over nearly 100 miles of the river. Those areas appear to come in contact or potentially affect breeding grounds for birds and fish, municipal water sources, aviary flyways, and recreational areas. In addition, several endangered fish species occupy the targeted area of the Hudson River.

It is imperative that a full environmental assessment be conducted prior to approval of the plan to create these anchorages. In that the information provided to the public as part of the announcement of the proposed regulation fails to include any reference to environmental impact, I am concerned that the plan may not comply with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA" – 42 U.S.C. 4231).

NEPA, which is applicable to the Coast Guard, requires that the effects of USCG actions on the environment be considered equally with economic, technical, and other factors associated with the proposed action.

I believe that such a substantial undertaking will likely have substantial environmental impact. Therefore, there should be no categorical exclusion for his project, and either an Environmental Assessment or a full Environmental Impact Statement is warranted. Should the USCG view this matter differently, I would ask that the public be provided with a full accounting of the decision-making process under NEPA.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this, and allowing me to offer my comments.

Sincerely,

George Latimer  
NYS Senator, 37th S.D.