

The Legislature of Rockland County



ALDEN H. WOLFE
Chairman

September 14, 2016

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

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

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

As Rockland County Legislators, we write to formally express our concerns and opposition to the proposed formation of new anchorage grounds for barge vessels on the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston, New York. This proposal will not only adversely affect the ecology of the Hudson River and the quality of life of the waterfront communities along the proposed route, but it will also destroy the natural beauty of this historic landmark.

In further reading the request by the Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey, it is our understanding that they need approval of this proposal in order to accommodate the trade increase on the Hudson River. They state that with Albany being the lead export port for Jones Act trade of American Bakken Crude Oil and Ethanol, demand will increase activity on Hudson River, with large vessels occupying the waterway on a daily basis. This will clearly impact the Hudson River, creating traffic, pollution, as well as increase concerns about safety and other environmental issues. There has been a tremendous amount of effort put in to reducing the threat of crude oil spills, and this proposal just increases those possibilities which would have long lasting damage to the River, its wildlife and the shoreline.

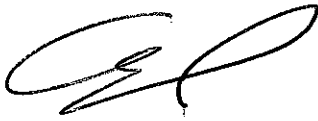
As you may already be aware, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has been working on a Hudson Valley Estuary Habitat Restoration Plan since 2013. The Plan intends to reverse the damage that was created by toxic pollutants in the 19th century which destroyed important habitats that supported plants, fish and wildlife along the River. To permit the proposed

anchorage grounds for large industrial vessels, some of which might carry crude oil, would be a step backwards and would hinder the DEC's efforts to clean and restore the River.

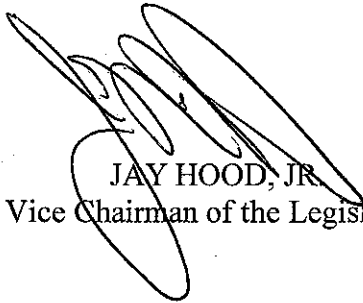
Furthermore, local communities have been working on the revitalization of their waterfronts for many years, and significant improvements have been made to enhance local economic benefits. New restaurants have opened and local marinas have renovated to accommodate the hundreds of new tourists and visitors. This past summer alone, the high temperatures encouraged hundreds of boaters to travel the Hudson, dock at local marinas for food, supplies and entertainment and to admire the beautiful scenic views of the Hudson River. The proposed anchorage grounds would surely raise serious concerns about boating safety as well as create more noise and pollution that will be harmful to the economic vitality of the river communities.

Although the industry may see this proposal as critical for America's economy, this basically translates to benefits to their bottom line. We see this proposal as a potential hazard with detrimental effects on the Hudson River, the river communities and their economic wellbeing. We appreciate the Coast Guard providing the opportunity for comment and implore you to reject the industry's proposal for anchorage grounds. The denial of this proposal will ensure the preservation and protection of this historically-designated natural resource.

Sincerely,



ALDEN H. WOLFE
Chairman of the Legislature



JAY HOOD, JR.
Vice Chairman of the Legislature



HARRIET D. CORNELL
Chair, Environmental Committee