

**COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO THE COAST GUARD'S  
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH NEW ANCHORAGE  
GROUNDS FOR BARGE VESSELS IN THE HUDSON RIVER**

**DOCKET NUMBER USCG-2016-0132**

These comments are respectfully submitted in response to the Coast Guard's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Docket Number USCG-2016-0132, posted on June 9, 2016.

The Notice advises the public that the Coast Guard is considering the establishment of new anchorage grounds for barge vessels in the Hudson River from Yonkers, New York to Kingston, New York. I strongly advocate the abandonment of that proposal. No such anchorage grounds should be allowed.

The language of both the "Summary" Section and Section E of the advanced notice suggest that the Coast Guard will primarily consider issues of "navigation safety" and "efficient flow of vessel traffic." However, the appearance of massive vessels parked next to our towns, villages and parks will have an immense impact beyond the edge of the river. The effects that anchorage grounds will have on the many restaurants and other businesses that border the river, and on the quality of life of the hundreds of thousands of citizens who reside near the river, must also be considered.

I moved with my family to the village of Dobbs Ferry two years ago. We chose Dobbs Ferry primarily because it is a "River Town." Hardly a day goes by when we are not either walking or riding bikes on trails that overlook the Hudson, spending time in one of the many local parks that border the Hudson, reading while sitting on the terrace of one of several local libraries that overlook the Hudson, or eating at one of the many local restaurants that border or overlook the Hudson. And we are not alone. The Hudson is in fact the focal point of life in all of the River Towns. The reason that is so is because the Hudson is a beautiful river.

To now, in effect, reindustrialize the river will destroy that beauty, leading to shuttered businesses, under used parks, and a tragic

decrease in the quality of life for those of us who live here. These impacts must be considered, and any added convenience for ship owners must be balanced against them.

Early in our country's history, a group of landscape painters embodied an aesthetic vision that became known as the "Hudson River School." Many of the paintings for which the movement is named depict the Hudson River Valley and the surrounding area. The works depict an American landscape where human beings and nature coexist peacefully.

Over the ensuing decades, the Hudson River, like most major American rivers, became an industrial dumping ground. In the Twentieth Century, however, a movement emerged in this country that has led to the recovery of riverbanks for the use and enjoyment of the people. That movement was led in large part by people like Pete Seeger, who fought to clean up the Hudson River. To now turn that same river into an industrial parking lot would to completely ignore lessons learned decades ago.

No anchorage grounds for barge vessels should be permitted in the Hudson River.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin C. Bullock  
Dobbs Ferry, New York  
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