

Letter of Opposition to the Proposed Anchorages between Yonkers and Kingston

by Mid-Hudson Valley Municipal Leaders and
Environmental Organizations

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United States Coast Guard
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Boston, MA 02110

The Hudson River is vitally important to the Hudson Valley and all of New York, because of its unique ecosystem, its notable history, and its beautiful scenery. This vital resource brings in thousands of tourists, who enjoy and shop at local businesses, farms, and wineries. The River holds the unique distinction of being one of the few American Heritage Rivers established by Congress in 1996.

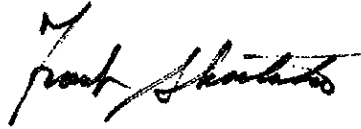
In June 2016, the U.S. Coast Guard announced that it was soliciting comments and concerns from the public in an Advance Notice of Public Rulemaking on a proposal to establish a large number of anchorage grounds for commercial vessels in the Hudson River – 43 berths in 7 locations from Yonkers to Kingston – at the request from industry groups that have been anticipating increased shipment of oil and ethanol. There are currently just two official anchorage grounds, at Yonkers and Hyde Park. Additional anchorages are proposed for: Kingston Flats South, Port Ewen, Big Rock Point, Milton, Roseton, Marlboro, Newburgh, Tompkins Cove, Montrose Point, and Yonkers.

The risks posed by the barges and tugboats to the ecology of the river as well as the impact on the surrounding communities, is not fully studied or understood. What is clear, however, is that this proposal is inconsistent with the vision our communities share for the future of the Hudson River. Research shows that the habitats of some fish have been affected by previous anchorage sites.ⁱ Vessels containing volatile crude oil and petroleum products pose a serious risk. An anchored boat containing these hazardous materials could catch fire or spill toxic fuel in the river. There will be threats to the health of communities that use the Hudson River for drinking water, such as the City of Poughkeepsie and the Town of Lloyd. The sites would also take a toll on the scenic beauty and economic viability of our region; at least three locations would block the view from popular tourist attractions.ⁱⁱ Moreover, many in our community are concerned about the impact of constant noise, light and smoke from anchored boats, as many of the proposed sites are nearby homes and businesses.ⁱⁱⁱ

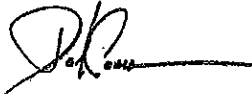
We, the elected officials and environmental organizations of the communities along the Hudson River that highly value the esthetic beauty and economic importance from recreation and tourism of the Hudson River, sign our name to this letter to request that the United States Coast Guard recognize the importance of previous letters that call for public

meetings, and to accept our firm and unequivocal opposition to the Proposed Rules to establish anchorages between Yonkers and Kingston.

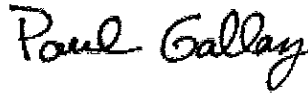
Respectfully submitted by the municipal leaders and environmental organizations in the Mid-Hudson Valley -



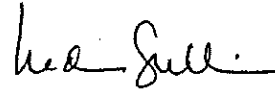
NY State Assemblyman 104th,
Frank Skartados



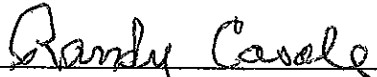
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Dave Conover, Interim Exec. Dir.



Riverkeeper, Inc.
Paul Gallay, President



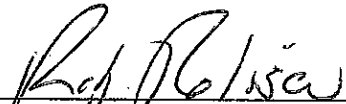
Scenic Hudson, Inc
Ned Sullivan, President



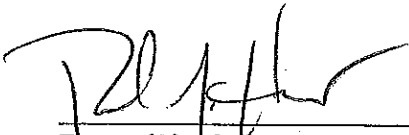
City of Beacon
Mayor Randy Casale



City of Newburgh,
Mayor Judy Kennedy



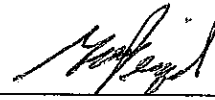
City of Poughkeepsie,
Mayor Robert Rolison



Town of Lloyd,
Supervisor Paul Hansut



Town of Marlborough
Supervisor Al Lanzetta



Town of Newburgh
Supervisor Gil Piaquadio

ⁱ riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Hudson-Anchorage-Pub-Mtg-Request-.pdf

ⁱⁱ heraldcourier.com/news/groups-raise-concerns-about-hudson-river-anchorage-plans/article_26caa829-1b87-5553-b96f-b6a24fec5f10.html

ⁱⁱⁱ riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Hudson-Anchorage-Pub-Mtg-Request-.pdf