

# HASTINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OBSERVATORY COTTAGE

October 17, 2016

US Coast Guard First District  
Commander Linda Fagan  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: Letter Against Proposed Rule for Anchorage Grounds on the Hudson**  
**Docket ID: USCG-2016-0132**

Dear Commander Fagan,

The Hastings Historical Society is opposed to the proposal to put 43 additional anchorage berths in the Hudson River. The Society is very aware of how important the Hudson is to the past history of our village and to the history of the entire Hudson River Valley.

In the 1800s, the river's beauty was an inspiration to a number of famous artists, including Jasper Cropsey, who is the subject of the Newington-Cropsey Foundation museum located in our town. Like many other river communities, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, our waterfront became the site of industrial pollution; after many years of negotiation, Hastings is now finally moving ahead with waterfront revitalization. Plans to restore our village's Quarry Park, with its towering marble cliffs and views of the Hudson River and Palisades, are also underway.

Now that our community and many others up and down the river have spent millions of dollars to bring the Hudson back to its natural splendor, reindustrializing the river would be a major step backward. Parking barges in the river would create a visual blot on the landscape, as well as generate additional light and noise pollution. The ultimate risk, of course, is an oil spill, which could damage the river for decades.

It is for all these reasons that the Hastings Historical Society is firmly against this proposed rule. In 1998, the President of the United States designated the Hudson as an American Heritage River, citing its historical, natural and recreational significance. We hope you'll share our opinion that we must be committed to preserving the Hudson's unique qualities for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Natalie Barry, President  
& the Board of Trustees  
Hastings Historical Society