RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT URGING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO REJECT PROPOSED RULE USCG-2016-0132 IN RELATION TO HUDSON RIVER ANCHORAGE GROUNDS

WHEREAS, under title 33 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 109.05, U.S. Coast Guard District Commanders are delegated the authority to establish anchorage grounds by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, in proposed rule USCG-2016-0132, the Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, New York, to Kingston, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is currently accepting public comment on the proposed rule; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is contemplating anchorage grounds in Tomkins Cove that would cover approximately 98 acres for up to three vessels for long term usage; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is further contemplating a Newburgh anchorage ground that would cover 445 acres for up to five vessels for long term usage; and

WHEREAS, these anchorage grounds are not in Putnam County but the proximity still has great environmental concerns that vary at each anchorage point and have not been fully studied by the scientific community; and

WHEREAS, the long-term mooring points established under this rule would create sediment disturbances and pose new and potentially catastrophic environmental risks from collisions, loss of aquatic habitat under the vessels, and unmitigated oil spills; and

WHEREAS, “scarring” of the riverbed caused by the use of anchors, anchorage chains and pile moorings may negatively impact the endangered Sturgeon population and further fish and aquatic wildlife habitat, presenting a threat to biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, the permanent impact upon soil, water and ecological issues in the communities of Putnam County along the Hudson River estuary are major concerns that deserve a full environmental impact study and risk assessment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District pauses in its deliberations to urge the United States Coast Guard to reject proposed rule USCG-2016-0132 as drafted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Directors further pauses in its deliberations to urge the United States Coast Guard to conduct a full environmental study and risk assessment for this proposal in accordance with the applicable federal environmental guidelines, policies, regulations and laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Manager of the Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District is hereby authorized and directed to submit a copy of this resolution to the docket at www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USCG-2016-0132; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Rear Admiral Linda L. Fagan, Commander, First Coast Guard District, United States Coast Guard; Michael Latham, Director of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee; Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell; Putnam County Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra, Chairwoman of the Putnam County Board of Legislators Committee of Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee.