

DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.
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December 6, 2016

Rear Admiral Steven D. Poulin
Commander, First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River (USCG-2016-0132)

Dear Admiral Poulin:

I write to express my strong support for the U.S. Coast Guard's proposal to establish anchorage areas on the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston. The proposed anchorages will enhance navigational safety on the Hudson by allowing vessel operators to safely anchor during periods of restricted visibility, ice conditions, and other severe weather events. As the Congressional representative for a district with a significant maritime industry constituency, safety on the waterways should always be our priority.

The U.S. Coast Guard's proposal goes beyond simply facilitating commerce on the Hudson: it affords much-needed security for commercial vessels and their crews in times of distress. Safety for the workforce that has enabled waterborne transport and trade for our region for centuries deserves the support and attention of maritime authorities.

Beyond protecting life and property, the proposed anchorages will also protect the environment by reducing the risk of accidents that could cause spills and other environmental disasters. Anchorages on the Hudson will improve safety and environmental protections with relatively little impact to local communities. There is no infrastructure needed to support the anchorages, they are intended only for temporary use, and they assist the current vessel traffic on the Hudson – they do not in themselves encourage more traffic.

I firmly believe that the proposed anchorages will improve safety for the vessels and crews that are so important to the Hudson River and its communities. I urge the Coast Guard to finalize this rule as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel M. Donovan, Jr." in a cursive script.

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress