

December 6, 2016

United States Coast Guard
c/o Regulatons.gov.

Dear Coast Guard Officials:

I am strongly opposed to the proposal to establish 10 anchorage sites for crude oil barges between Yonkers and Kingston.

The Hudson River was once a pristine treasure trove of fish and seafood. The citizen struggle to restore it after years of neglect, oil spills, Indian Point accidents, and other pollution must not be jeopardized. Oil barges inevitably will be a source of oil leakage.

Accidents, some fatal, have occurred when power boats hit barges. There is no way to insure that all barges will be known about by river travelers, or properly illuminated.

Places in the Hudson could be targeted for experimental oyster beds. The prospect and success of such excellent ventures would be undercut by oil leakage and spills.

Barges would have to be towed, emplaced, and removed. Additional slow motor traffic on the Hudson would be a substantial source of pollution.

The Walkway Over the Hudson, one of the longest pedestrian bridges in the world, was opened a few years ago. Tourism and shops at its ends have prospered. The Rivertowns on the Hudson River are enjoying a similar renaissance. Yonkers has opened its waterfront and uncovered the Saw Mill River. The advent of a fleet of oil barges, largely stagnant, could only hurt this remarkable progress.

This proposal requires rejection, rethinking, and rerouting.



William S. Greenawalt

Former Chair, New York State Taconic
State Parks, Recreation and Historic
Preservation
Former Chair, Westchester County Parks
and Recreation and Conservation Commission

(914)946-3700
wsgreenawalt@gmail.com