December 5, 2016

Mr. Craig Lapiejko  
Waterways Management Branch at Coast Guard First District

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

On behalf of the people of the Town of Haverstraw, I am writing to express our vehement opposition to locating the proposed anchored barges in the Hudson River which would be in close proximity to the Towns of Haverstraw and Stony Point, as well as our neighboring towns in Westchester. We fully understand the critical need for commercial boating traffic on the Hudson River and we are not advocating any dissolution or reduction of commercial boating traffic. However, it is clearly transparent that the Hudson River has metamorphosed and evolved into a highly recreational boating industry. For example, the Haverstraw Marina which currently has close to a thousand boating slips and is the largest marina in the State of New York, and possibly in the entire Northeast has had a dramatic impact on the Hudson River boating industry and the Hudson Valley economy. In addition our sister Town to the north Stony Point has several smaller marinas. Any threat to this industry whereby boaters would fear possible accidents with these barges could have a devastating effect upon our economy. It was just in our recent history, where one young couple who were engaged to be married had a tragic boating accident where the bride Lindsey Stewart and the best man Mark Lennon were tragically killed when the boat hit a barge on the Tappan Zee Bridge. Four others, including the groom were seriously injured in the accident.

The recreational boating industry has been a major factor in local economies from restaurants, stores, hotels and tourism. It is obvious to any resident who lives in a riverfront community that this is the future development and the potential gold mine of economic opportunities for New York’s stagnant economy. This proposal flies in the face of the New York’s future and takes us back to the planning of a century ago. It completely ignores the obvious and transparent wave of economic opportunity which the Hudson River is offering. To demonstrate this point, Haverstraw is not only home to the Haverstraw Marina, we are proud to also offer to the public the Rockland County Haverstraw Bay Park which has a public boat launch, Bowline Point Park which is attended by over 100,000 people each summer, including boaters who take advantage of Bowline Pond, Emeline Park on the Hudson River, the Haverstraw Elks which also possesses a marina, and the newly constructed Harbors of Haverstraw. All of these amenities have beautiful views of the Hudson River which bring in hundreds of thousands of residents and non-residents each year.
TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

Lastly, the Haverstraw Bay has been declared a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat (SCFWH) by the Department of State of New York. This is a direct result of the sensitivity of the Haverstraw Bay of both indigenous and migratory fish species which spawn every year in the Haverstraw Bay. Putting barges that have residual oil or contaminants could have a detrimental impact upon this sensitive habitat.

Sincerely,

HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.
Supervisor
24. RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PLAN TO ANCHOR BARGES ALONG THE SHORES OF HAVERSTRAW IN THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS BEEN RECENTLY NOTIFIED THAT THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IS TAKING PUBLIC COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO ITS PLAN TO ALLOW THE ANCHORAGE OF BARGES ALONG THE SHORELINES OF HAVERSTRAW, NEW YORK; AND

WHEREAS, THE ANCHORING OF THESE FACILITIES WOULD CAUSE AN EYESORE OBSTRUCTION AND A CONGREGATION OF DANGEROUS MATERIAL IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE SHORELINE; AND

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD FEELS THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE HEARD AND ALL VIEWS AND COMMENTS OF THE TOWN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO SEND A LETTER TO THE COAST GUARD REQUESTING THAT A PUBLIC MEETING FOR INFORMATION AND TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS BE HELD WITHIN THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW PRIOR TO THE ENACTMENT OF ANY REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THIS; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY DIRECT THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS REPRESENTING THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW.

AUGUST 8, 2016

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW
KAREN L. BULLEY, TOWN CLERK