



Rockland County

Ed Day, Rockland County Executive

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Edwin J. Day

Rockland County Executive

November 30, 2016

Craig D. Lapiejko
Waterways Management Branch
1st Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

Re: USCG-2016-0132
Anchorage Grounds, Hudson River – Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY

Dear Mr. Lapiejko:

On behalf of the 325,000 people of Rockland that I represent as County Executive, please accept this letter as opposition to the proposal to establish new anchorage grounds on the Hudson River.

My concerns, listed below, have not of yet been allayed and are as follows:

The re-industrialization the Hudson River is at stake here. The tug and barge industry requested additional anchorages in part to support an increase in crude oil transport. Forty-two of the forty-three berths are designated as "long-term," and I am concerned that the Hudson River could become a proverbial parking lot for barges transporting crude oil. Increased transport and storage of crude oil leads to an increased risk of a devastating oil spill on the Hudson River. Experience has shown that such an incident would have a devastating ecological and economic effect.

What of the potential impact on the endangered species that call the Hudson River home? Atlantic and short nose sturgeon rely on the river bottom to spawn, feed, and rest. Will the proposed anchorage grounds will be detrimental to their survival?

Do we have a measure of the impact upon the riverfront communities and aquatic ecosystems? We must be sure before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal.

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On a related note, communities all along the Hudson River have made significant investments in their local waterfronts. Will increased vessel traffic and spoiled views undermine local waterfront revitalization efforts that are meant to improve local economies and the quality of life in the Hudson Valley.

At the end of the day, it is imperative that should the Coast Guard decide to move forward with the proposal, it must address these concerns. Additionally, it must undergo comprehensive environmental review, including a full environmental impact statement.

Thank you for registering and weighing my comments.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin J. Day', written in a cursive style.

Edwin J. Day
COUNTY EXECUTIVE