

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3218

July 19, 2017

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

Dear Admiral Poulin,

I write in reference to the recent suspension on the rulemaking process for the proposed anchorage sites on the Hudson River.

First, I wanted to thank you for suspending that rulemaking. Doing so shows that you took seriously the concerns of the nearly 10,000 people who spoke out against the proposal. This proposal was a terrible idea and I want to thank you for making the decision to move in a different direction.

As we begin the PAWSA process, it is essential that the process takes into account those concerns, and respects the desire of thousands of Hudson Valley residents to be included in the process. I believe you can complete a successful and thorough PAWSA, but in order to do so the working group must represent the local communities and environmental groups that weighed in on the original proposal. The process must be fair, inclusive, transparent and respectful of the Hudson River's importance as both an economic engine and natural treasure. Therefore, I ask that at least half the members of the board be composed of local environmentalist and community groups that do not have a vested financial interest in increasing the number of anchorages or barges on the river. This also includes participation by county governments along the river, which should be represented equally on the working group.

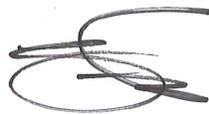
It's also essential that it reflect the following principles, which I have outlined below.

1. **Hudson Valley Voices Matter.** The PAWSA workgroups must contain a diverse group of stakeholders with at least half of the members of each workgroup representing communities along the Hudson River, impacted businesses, and environmental groups. Previous PAWSAs have resulted in about 60 percent of the workgroup members representing industry and thus giving undue influence to those in favor of anchorages.

2. **Follow the Facts.** Stakeholders participating in workgroups must be allowed to bring in outside credentialed experts to assist the workgroup in its efforts. Previous PAWSAs have restricted input into the process to the actual members of the workgroup, thus limiting the information considered by the PAWSA. By enabling workgroup members to bring in outside experts and consultants, at their own expense, the PAWSA process will be more thorough and properly examine the facts.
3. **The River Gets a Say.** Equal weight must be given to each of the workgroup's considerations including environmental, economic, and safety impacts of the proposal. Previous PAWSAs have weighed input from workgroup members based on "expertise," which often tilts the overall outcome towards industry and economic considerations.
4. **Let the Sunshine In.** The PAWSA process and the workgroup's activities must be transparent and open to the public. This should include livestreaming the workgroup's meetings. PAWSA workgroup meetings are often not conducted in a fashion that is open to the public. Something as simple as webcasting the proceedings could mitigate this concern.

As a representative in Congress for the Hudson River and communities that live along it, I urge you to incorporate these principles into the PAWSA process. I also know I speak for all my neighbors in the Hudson Valley when I applaud the professionalism of service members of the First Coast Guard District and thank them for their service. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (845) 561-1259.

Sincerely,



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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress