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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-3218

August 18, 2016

Admiral Paul F. Zukunft
Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20020

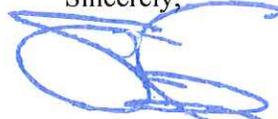
Dear Admiral Zukunft:

I write in regards to the Coast Guard's solicitation for comments on the proposal to establish new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River between Yonkers, NY and Kingston, NY. I have significant concerns about the potential impacts of an expansion of mooring infrastructure on the Hudson River. Therefore, before moving forward with any proposal, the Coast Guard must convene public hearings and conduct a thorough environmental impact study. It's essential that local stakeholders be engaged in this process and that their concerns be heard and addressed.

The Hudson Valley is an extraordinary place – made so in large part because of the stunning environmental and ecological beauty of the region. Not only does a significant increase in docking capacity and the potential of an environmentally hazardous oil spill put that at risk, but added moorings could adversely impact the local small businesses that rely on tourism and sightseeing. In addition, housing a large number of oil barges along the Hudson raises important safety concerns that must be considered and addressed without delay.

I appreciate all that the Coast Guard does to protect the American people. But before moving forward with any decision on mooring sites along the Hudson River, I hope that it takes the time to listen to folks in the Hudson Valley. Public safety and environmental concerns must be at the forefront of this decision making process. Thank you for your service and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress