

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,
RANKING MEMBER



Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
17th District, New York

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August 10, 2016

RDML Linda Fagan, District Commander
First Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

Dear RDML Fagan:

I am writing to express my concerns and those of my constituents on both sides of the Hudson River regarding the Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey Tug & Barge Committee's (Committee) request for expanded anchorage sites in the Hudson River.

I have reviewed and understand the reasons for the Committee's request. However, I believe the increase in barge traffic along the Hudson River will adversely impact the economy and safety of the Lower Hudson Valley region. Both Westchester and Rockland Counties have recreational marinas in the vicinity of the proposed anchorage sites. More barges will limit the number of recreational boaters at the marinas and increase the likelihood of serious accidents between boaters and barges, thereby hurting the recreational boating and tourism industry in the region. The proposed anchorage sites will also be visually unappealing, after several river towns have spent significant funds and effort to maintain the aesthetically pleasing shorelines.

The proposed anchorage sites also raise security and safety concerns. Indian Point Energy Center (Indian Point) operates two nuclear plants that sit on the Hudson River in Buchanan. Spectra Energy Partners is expanding its natural gas pipeline, which runs under the Hudson River, just south of Indian Point. Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) is in the permitting process for constructing a high-voltage transmission line from the U.S.-Canada border to New York City along the Hudson River. The proposed anchorage sites could be used to observe, violate, or even attack Indian Point. Also, the CHPE line will be covered by cement mattresses on the River floor, and barge anchors could get caught and move the mattresses, or

even damage the CHPE line. Furthermore, some of the barges that would anchor near the shoreline carry potentially dangerous and/or hazardous material.

At least two local municipalities within my Congressional district – the Towns of Cortlandt and Haverstraw – have passed resolutions opposing the proposed anchorage sites and requesting public hearings. I enclose these resolutions for your consideration. Several hundred residents of the Hudson Valley have also entered comments online opposing this proposal.

Based on the above serious concerns, I urge you to grant the Town of Cortlandt's timely request and hold public hearings in the Hudson Valley region to give opponents the opportunity to present their arguments in person before you make any decision on the request for expanded anchorage sites.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nita M. Lowey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress