

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 29, 2016

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

Dear Admiral Paul F. Zukunft,

We write to request the public comment period for the Advance Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking in which the US Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston, scheduled to close on September 7, 2016, be extended for an additional 90 days. We have heard from many elected officials representing municipalities along the Hudson River, as well as from community organizations and business leaders, that they would like additional time to develop and submit their comments. The anchorages proposal has recently received significant media coverage, and as more local residents and businesses become aware of it, we believe an extension of the public comment period would better allow local experts and interested parties an opportunity to comment. We appreciate that the US Coast Guard has publicly committed to holding public hearings regarding this proposal, and believe the process would also benefit from a reasonable extension of the public comment period.

We understand it is the intention of this proposal to ensure safety for all Hudson River traffic by formalizing where the vessels can anchor by using federally designated areas. We commend you for beginning a public process that would address these concerns. We also want to ensure that the process addresses the concerns of the communities along the Hudson River, and provides sufficient opportunities for their input. We believe a reasonable extension of the comment period would better enable the US Coast Guard to work in conjunction with local, state, and federal agencies and experts to find the optimal plan to ensure the safety and integrity of the Hudson Valley region and the Hudson River, its environment and its economic vitality.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Nita M Lowey

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

[Signature]

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress