

Elizabeth Evans

From: Elizabeth Evans
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 2:20 PM
To: Elizabeth Evans
Subject: FW: Statement from the City of Yonkers on S5197 (Serino)/A6825 (Barrett)
Importance: High

From: Jason Baker [<mailto:jason.baker@yonkersny.gov>]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:15 AM
Subject: Statement from the City of Yonkers on S5197 (Serino)/A6825 (Barrett)
Importance: High

April 14, 2017

Statement from the City of Yonkers on S5197 (Serino)/A6825 (Barrett)

An act to amend the environmental conservation law and the navigation law, in relation to consideration of environmental conditions when permitting petroleum-bearing vessels to enter navigable waters; and repealing section seventy-one of the navigation law relating to the petroleum-bearing vessel advisory commission.

Over the last year, the members of the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance (HRWA) have made great strides working together in opposition to the proposed anchorage expansion on the Hudson River. Today, through the common ground we share in protecting the Hudson River for the people, the HRWA now consists of more than 30 municipal governments spanning the entire Hudson River Valley, representing the mutual interests of more than 700,000 constituents. We continue to work with our partners including Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson and most recently, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), to plan for further action pending the USCG's review of the over 10,000 public comments submitted and its decision on advancing the proposal.

Recently, the referenced legislation was introduced in Albany – seeking to enhance the State's role in the review and approval of any federal proposal to establish new anchorages on the Hudson River. While admirable in its intent and overarching objectives, the City of Yonkers has determined that it cannot support this bill in its current format. Specifically, while the City supports an enhanced role for State agencies in all decisions made at the federal level regarding the commercial use of the Hudson River, we are concerned with the provisions which would allow for the creation of "tanker avoidance zones." In authorizing the State to establish tanker-avoidance zones, the legislation in its current form will likely have the unintended consequence of forcing the designation of anchorage zones and anchorage-free zones, meaning many among us could be on the losing end of the implementation of this bill.

If passed, this legislation could also have the unintended effect of fracturing the Alliance we have formed to protect the Hudson and our riverfront communities, thus weakening our ability to effectively oppose the powerful interests who remain unified in their efforts to gain USCG approval of the anchorage expansion proposal.

For these reasons, the City of Yonkers urges HRWA members and all Hudson Valley officials to withhold support for S5197 (Serino) / A6825 (Barrett) pending further discussion with the State legislative leaders who

have sponsored this bill. Thank you for your continued partnership and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments on this or any other matter.

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