

**ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS**  
SENATOR, 35TH DISTRICT

**CHAIR:**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**COMMITTEES:**  
BANKS  
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
& SMALL BUSINESS  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
FINANCE  
HEALTH  
LABOR  
RULES  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY  
& MILITARY AFFAIRS



**THE SENATE**  
**STATE OF NEW YORK**

September 13, 2016

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
805 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
518-455-2585  
FAX 518-426-6811

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**  
28 WELLS AVENUE  
BUILDING 3, FIRST FLOOR  
YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701-7045  
(914) 423-4031  
FAX (914) 423-0979

Mr. Craig Lapiejko  
United State Coast Guard, First District  
Waterways Management Branch  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Lapiejko,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal by the United States Coast Guard to establish ten or more barge anchorage sites on the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston. Several communities in my district, such as Yonkers, Hastings-on-Hudson and Dobbs Ferry, will be significantly impacted by this proposal and officials from these communities are united in their opposition.

The hasty process through which this proposal has moved is alarming. The Coast Guard did not formally notify elected officials in the affected areas, has not held public hearings nor has it conducted a formal environmental review. Had these steps been taken, the Coast Guard may have been more keenly aware of how strongly opposed the tens of thousands of impacted residents and their elected representatives are to this proposal.

River communities in Westchester County consider their proximity to the Hudson River as one of their most attractive assets. Over the past several years, these communities have sought to capitalize on this advantage by investing in waterfront revitalization. The City of Yonkers, for example, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to eliminate blighted areas, build new housing and create additional recreational space along its shoreline. These revitalization efforts are key components of the City's economic plans for the future. The Village of Hasting-On-Hudson is also reclaiming blighted areas along the banks of the Hudson. It hopes to transform the site of a former Atlantic Richfield Company factory into a new development that includes green space, housing and commercial property. Finally, Dobbs Ferry recently opened a new Waterfront Park and has invested millions in improving recreational access to the Hudson River. The State of New York has been a vital partner in all of these projects and it is important that we continue to support these investments. Unfortunately, the proposal to place barge anchorage sites just off shore of these communities threatens the progress they have made.

Creating a parking lot for barges in Yonkers and the Rivertowns will contribute to the industrialization of the Hudson River; a process that New York State and these communities have spent millions of dollars to reverse. The aesthetic value of the river views will drastically decrease and the barges will obstruct free use of the Hudson for boaters, kayakers, swimmers, fishers and others. Moreover, the barges pose a threat to water quality and increase the likelihood of major oil or chemical spills. This

endangers the success of waterfront revitalization efforts and puts the health and safety of residents at risk.

As State Senator and Senate Democratic Leader, one of my top priorities is fostering sustainable economic growth in our communities. Investing in waterfront revitalization along the Hudson River is an effective strategy to ensure long term prosperity for Yonkers and the Rivertowns. It capitalizes on the natural beauty of their surroundings and improves the quality of life for residents. All of these goals are threatened by the proposal to place ten barge anchorage sites along the eastern shore of the Hudson River. At the very least, it behooves the Coast Guard to afford members of these communities an opportunity to publicly express their opinions and provide a thorough environmental review of this proposal. Overall, I am strongly opposed to this proposal and ask that you reconsider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Stewart-Cousins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
New York State Senate, 35<sup>th</sup> District  
Senate Democratic Leader