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United States Coast Guard

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The Honorable Patrick Ryan
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 2023, regarding vessel anchorages on the Hudson River. As the Director of Marine Transportation Systems, I wanted to reply directly to on behalf of Sector New York and the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring navigational safety, environmental protection, and the efficient flow of commerce on this critical waterway.

In the *Establishing Anchorage Grounds on the Hudson River* Report to Congress, the Coast Guard's purpose was to affirm existing authorities based on a 2016 detailed historical analysis of the current anchoring regulation, which applies to all vessels within the "Port of New York." In furtherance of messaging in the Report to Congess, the Coast Guard issued the referenced Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) to clarify the application of the Port of New York anchoring regulation geographically.

The questions raised in your letter are important and warrant further discussion and analysis. I have asked for a collective evaluation on the outcomes resulting from the clarification of the geographic reach of the Port of New York anchoring regulation under 33 C.F.R. 110.155 to ensure our actions are conducted with transparency and are inclusive of public engagement.

The Coast Guard is committed to ensuring the protection of the environment in accordance with all applicable laws. Accordingly, the Coast Guard will be arranging meetings with a local environmental non-governmental organization and the Hudson River Safety Navigation and Operations Committee (HRSNOC) this month to further discuss and understand the issues raised in relation to the Port of New York anchoring regulation clarification.

As you know, the Coast Guard works with the HRSNOC to ensure the safe, secure, and environmentally sound usage of the Hudson River. The HRSNOC is an important forum for coordination, collaboration, and recommendations among private and public stakeholders on the Hudson River. Membership is open to all interested parties and typically comprised of representatives of governmental agencies, maritime labor, industry organizations, and public interest groups. We will continue to work closely with the HRSNOC and all stakeholders, as we have in the development and issuance of the MSIB, to promote navigational safety and environmental protection of the Hudson River and its adjacent communities.

Sector New York and Coast Guard First District staff will update you on our upcoming engagements and answer any additional questions. Should you have any further questions on this matter, please contact the Coast Guard House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Emerson
Director, Marine Transportation Systems
U.S. Coast Guard