



Town of Germantown

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Via email: ralstadt@pokwater.com

April 20, 2021

Comment to the Hudson River Safety,
Navigation and Operations Committee

Attn: Randy Alstadt,
Public Member of the HRSNOC

Re: Catskill Mooring Proposal

Dear Mr. Alstadt:

Please forward this comment in full to the committee.

The Town of Germantown is alarmed to learn of a proposal to site a commercial barge mooring on the Germantown shoreline, just 150 yards from Ernest R. Lasher Jr. Memorial Park and its NY State Boat Launch. The park is actively used by boaters and fishermen of all sorts, from power boaters to paddleboarders. During summer months the park attracts boaters, paddlers, and sailors from throughout the region, to the extent that parking becomes a problem and there is often a lineup for launching the larger craft. All of these uses and many more will be negatively impacted by a mooring so close it will blot out our majestic view of the Catskill Mountains.

In addition to recreational use, the boat launch is also used by the Germantown Fire Department for its critical river rescue operations. We would hate to see a tug, maneuvering near the proposed mooring, block the quick access to the Hudson that the FD needs to do its duty.

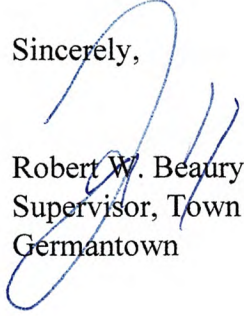
What is most puzzling about this proposed commercial barge mooring is its rationale. The application alludes to safety issues at the Peckham dock, but to our knowledge there have not been any incidents there spanning many decades of activity involving the cement barges and now the gravel barges. And if you want to increase safety, we do not understand why you would bring commercial barge traffic from the shipping channel on the west side of the river over to our side, adjacent to a town park featuring significant recreational boating. Here in Germantown the area east of the shipping channel is a busy recreational corridor, and the requested mooring will take up much of the open area of that corridor. Your proposal is increasing the risk that a recreational boater will collide with a tug, barge, mooring line, or buoy, none of which are currently present in the recreational corridor. And the risk is even higher for recreational boaters returning at night and encountering dark poorly lit barges moored close to the boat launch.

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We are very aware of the 2016 proposal for commercial anchorages on the Hudson that was soundly defeated by thousands of comments from Hudson Valley residents, and then recently barred by Federal legislation. We understand the technical difference between a mooring and an anchorage, but we also hope that you understand that the verdict has already been rendered, and the public does not want commercial operations to use the Hudson for parking vessels and barges.

Please reject this proposal that would reduce safety on the Germantown waterfront.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Beaury
Supervisor, Town of
Germantown

Cc: Senator Daphne Jordan, NYS Senate
Assemblymember Didi Barrett, NYS Assembly
Chairman Matt B. Murell, Columbia County Board of Supervisors
Germantown Town Board