

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Counsel

CHRISTOPHER RAGUCCI
Minority Counsel

September 10, 2018

Hon. Nancy J. Brighton, Chief
Watershed Section, Environmental Analysis Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Chief Brighton,

We, the below signed members of the Ulster County Legislature, write to respectfully request an extension of ninety (90) days to hold additional informational meetings and accept public comment on the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Coastal Storm Risk Management study for New York Harbor and the Hudson Valley. The plans the USACE selects to be the subject of a Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement will affect thousands of square miles of shoreline from northern New Jersey to Troy in New York, and millions of people, many right here in Ulster County. While we appreciate the recent announcement that the deadline for comment has been extended by thirty (30) days, we believe more time is necessary for communities to fully understand the proposals and their effects.

The Hudson River Coastal Towns of Esopus, Saugerties, Lloyd and City of Kingston in Ulster County each have Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans (LWRPs) for land use, passive and active types of recreation and preservation of natural waterfront resources aimed at increasing recreational boating, and promoting responsible waterfront uses. We believe that, of the six alternatives currently proposed, Alternative Number 5 is the only scenario presented that is in keeping with the towns' LWRPs and offers the best opportunity to protect these communities from storm surges caused by storms like Irene, Lee and Sandy, while leaving our rivers to continue to flow naturally.

Alternatives 2, 3A, 3B and 4 all present significant risks to the Hudson River and tributary flow patterns, contaminant and sediment transport, migration of essential fish populations and tidal exchange of the river. Open tidal exchange is crucial to move sediment and flush contaminants and, if restricted, could require much more dredging to maintain shipping channels. Sewage and other contaminants could potentially flush to the ocean more slowly, resulting in more pollution for our already contaminated harbor and river. All due time must be given to communities to evaluate USACE's proposals and offer comments and concerns.

The U.S. Coast Guard, in seeking public feedback on designating new anchorage grounds on the Hudson, initially offered a three-month comment period on an "advance notice of public rulemaking." After receiving

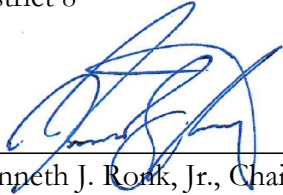
many requests for a reconsideration, including one from this Legislature, the comment period was extended by an additional three months. It is our hope that you will similarly respond to the requests you have been receiving seeking additional public informational meetings and extension of the comment period to allow potentially affected communities the opportunity to thoroughly review the alternatives and evaluate the potential impacts.

We appreciate your time and consideration.

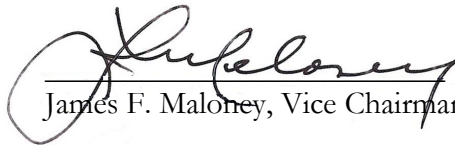
Sincerely,



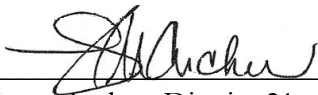
Laura Petit, Legislator
District 8



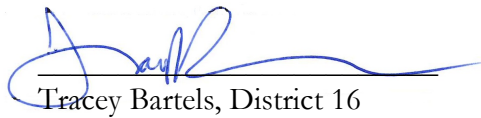
Kenneth J. Runk, Jr., Chairman



James F. Maloney, Vice Chairman



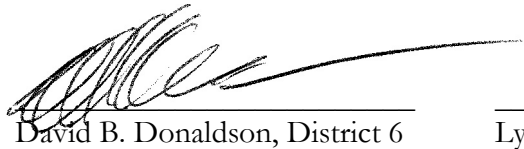
Lynn Archer, District 21



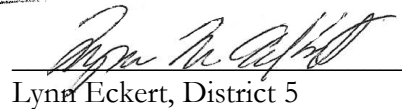
Tracey Bartels, District 16



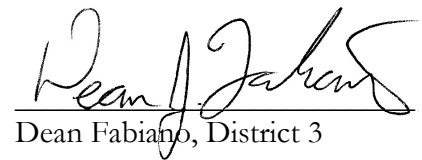
James Delaune, District 17



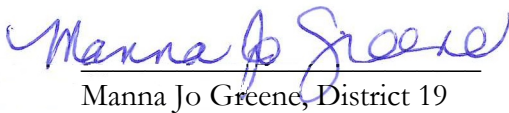
David B. Donaldson, District 6



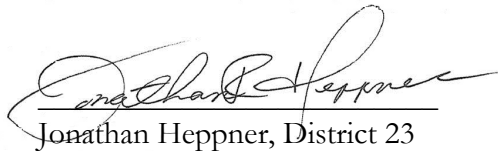
Lynn Eckert, District 5



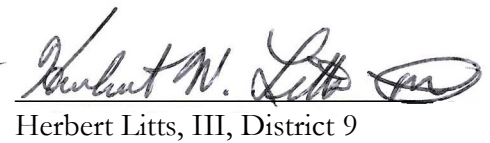
Dean Fabiano, District 3



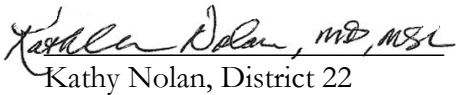
Manna Jo Greene, District 19



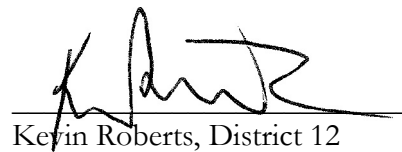
Jonathan Heppner, District 23



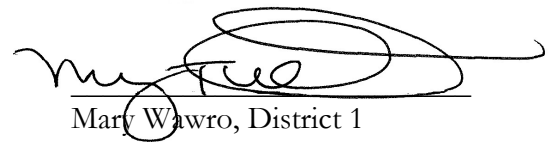
Herbert W. Litts, III, District 9



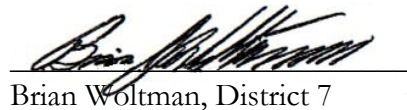
Kathy Nolan, District 22



Kevin Roberts, District 12



Mary Wawro, District 1



Brian Woltman, District 7

Cc: Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Congressman John Faso, Governor Andrew Cuomo, NYS Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, NYS Senator George Amedore, NYS Assemblyman Kevin Cahill