

DTomchuck



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COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK, 12233-1010

DEC 29 1997

Ms. Judith Schmidt-Dean  
1 Ferry Street  
Schuylerville, New York 12871

Dear Ms. Schmidt-Dean:

Thank you for your letters to Gavin Donohue, Erin Crotty, and me concerning your views on the Hudson River PCB problem. It is refreshing to hear the positive economic aspects the Hudson River now boasts. These current and anticipated improvements in recreation and tourism will provide additional economic support to the local towns in areas along the river. The Hudson River is truly a valuable natural resource for everyone to enjoy.

While the United States Environmental Protection Agency performed certain siting studies, which were unknown to the participants in the Hudson River Reassessment project, I believe they should now be judged by their future actions in bringing the project to a decision point. It is my understanding they will be taking the necessary steps to provide meaningful involvement for all concerned citizens in their future efforts.

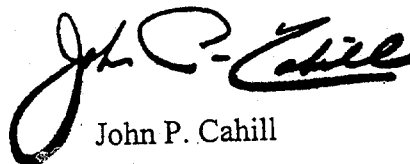
Your testimony on the economic considerations certainly documents the positive environmental changes that have occurred over the last 20 years. However, with these improvements there still exists the PCB contamination in the river. Based on your information alone, future economic development in the upper Hudson River/Champlain Canal may have to consider what to do with contaminated sediments if their projects involve removing sediments from the river. Consequently, we believe the Reassessment data will be beneficial to future anticipated economic development along the Hudson River.

Since the EPA is the lead on this remedial project, I cannot promise that the economic considerations you raise are taken into account in its evaluation. However, we shall endeavor to consider the continued full use of the Hudson River during EPA's evaluation of alternatives to be conducted in the feasibility study.

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Thank you for your continued interest and support for beneficial uses of the Hudson River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John P. Cahill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent.

John P. Cahill

cc: D. Tomchuck, USEPA