

MAY 12 1998

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Linda Peterson, Town Clerk
Town of New Castle
200 South Greeley Avenue
Chappaqua, New York 10514

Dear Ms. Peterson:

This is in response to your letter of April 17, 1998 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Town of New Castle in which the Town expresses its support for the Hudson River PCBs Site Reassessment being conducted by EPA.

EPA appreciates the support from members of the Hudson River community with respect to the Reassessment study that we are currently conducting. As you know, the Reassessment, when completed, will include a detailed characterization of the PCB contamination in the Upper Hudson River, calculation of the human health and ecological risks associated with the contamination, and the evaluation of remedial alternatives to address the contamination. EPA is committed to completing the Reassessment in an expeditious manner.

Your support is particularly appreciated because "community acceptance" is an important factor to be considered when the Agency ultimately makes a remedial decision for the Upper Hudson River sediments. EPA will keep the public informed of its findings regarding the Reassessment. For further information with respect to this site, please contact Ann Rychlenski at (212) 637-3672.

Sincerely yours,

Richard L. Caspe, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

bcc: OEX
A. Rychlenski, CD
D. Fischer, ORC

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SYMBOL -->	SP/CT	SP/CT	SP/CT	ERRD-DD	ERRD-D			
NAME -->	Hughes	Tomchuk	Hauptman	McCabe	Caspe			
DATE -->		5/11/98	5/11/98	5/11/98	5/11/98			

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TOWN of NEW CASTLE



SUPERVISOR
CLINTON B. SMITH

COUNCIL MEMBERS
MARION S. SINEK*
JANET L. WELLS
KENNETH J. NOVENSTERN
RICHARD LASTER

* DEPUTY SUPERVISOR

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
GENNARO J. FAIELLA

200 SOUTH GREELEY AVENUE
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK 10514

(914) 238-4771
Fax # (914) 238-0426

April 17, 1998

Hon. Carol Browner, Administrator
United States Environmental Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Browner:

Enclosed are copies of resolutions recently passed by the Town Board of the Town of New Castle, New York, regarding PCB's in the Hudson River and the Designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Peterson".

Linda Peterson
Town Clerk

EXTRACT FROM THE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 1998

PRESENT: Clinton B. Smith, Supervisor
Janet L. Wells, Council Member
Kenneth J. Novenstern, Council Member
Richard Laster, Council Member

ABSENT: Marion S. Sinek, Council Member

RESOLUTION

PCB'S IN HUDSON

DESIGNATION OF HUDSON RIVER AS AN AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER

Council Member Novenstern moved, seconded by Council Member Wells, to adopt the following resolution in support of the EPA's reassessment of PCB's in the Hudson River and the evaluation of potential remedial actions as set forth in the letter from Mayor Bob Elliot, Village of Croton-on-Hudson, dated December 18, 1997, as follows:

WHEREAS, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of our community and the Hudson River is a treasured asset; and

WHEREAS, nearly 200 miles of the Hudson River - from Hudson Falls to New York City - are a federal Superfund site due to polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination; and

WHEREAS, PCBs are the most significant contaminant limiting full use and enjoyment of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, PCBs were banned in 1976 because of a variety of known and suspected impacts on humans and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, PCBs remain in the Hudson River exposing humans and wildlife to their effects; and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$40 million annually has been lost over the last twenty years because of the closure of Hudson River commercial fisheries and restrictions on recreationally caught fish. As a result, the Hudson Valley has lost an important cultural heritage and way of life and the economic vitality of the Hudson River region continues to be hampered by the limitations on recreational use of the River and the stigma of PCB contamination; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund officials determined in February 1997 that PCB "hot spots" in the sediment of the upper Hudson are the "dominant source" of PCB contamination to the River, and that microbial breakdown will not rid the River of PCBs; and

WHEREAS, the EPA's Hudson River Reassessment has determined that without remediation, present levels of contamination will continue indefinitely, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of New Castle, Westchester County, New York, hereby expresses its support for the Hudson River Reassessment being conducted by the U.S. EPA under the Superfund, including evaluation of the feasibility of potential remedial action that can most effectively restore the Hudson River, including the evaluation of traditional disposal methods as well as innovative technologies that can be used to destroy PCBs. Further, the Town of New Castle, Westchester County, New York, urges that the U.S. EPA complete the Hudson River Reassessment as

expeditiously as possible.

VOTE: AYES ALL

Supervisor Smith moved, seconded by Council Member Laster, to adopt the following resolution requesting the designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River as set forth in the letter from Mayor Bob Elliot, Village of Croton-on-Hudson, dated December 18, 1997, as follows:

WHEREAS, the American Rivers Heritage Initiative was announced by President Clinton on February 4, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River has held a pre-eminent role in the development of the heritage of the United States influencing the settlement pattern of Native Americans, serving as a corridor of exploration, fortifying America during the Revolution, giving rise to the Age of Steam, inspiring the Hudson River School of Painting, facilitating the economic rise of New York and serving as a catalyst in the creation of the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, the designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River will provide for the coordinated delivery of Federal services, enhanced opportunities for waterfront redevelopment, improved water quality, and further the goals and strategies already utilized by the Hudson Valley Greenway; and

WHEREAS, Governor George E. Pataki, on behalf of the State of New York is seeking designation of the Hudson River as an American Heritage River, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of New Castle, Westchester County, New York, supports the application and urges the President to designate the Hudson River an American Heritage River.

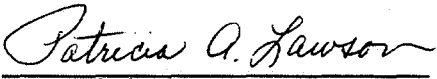
VOTE: AYES ALL

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, PATRICIA A. LAWSON, Deputy Town Clerk of the Town of New Castle, do hereby certify that the above is a true transcript of the original as adopted by the Town Board at its meeting held on the 24th day of February 1998.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of New Castle this 17th day of April, 1998.

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Patricia A. Lawson
Deputy Town Clerk