



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

**REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866**

70176

Harrison Town-Village
Alfred F. Sulla, Jr. Municipal Building
1 Heineman Place
Harrison, New York 10528

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to your letter of January 21, 1998 to EPA Administrator Carol Browner regarding the Hudson River PCBs Site. Your letter forwards a copy of a recent Resolution by the Town and Village of Harrison in which the Town-Village 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

January 21, 1998

98-47

REQUEST TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY : HUDSON RIVER

On motion of Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Strati,

it was

RESOLVED that Harrison join with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and other municipalities in adopting the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EPA's REASSESSMENT OF PCB's
IN THE HUDSON RIVER,
AND TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL REMEDIAL ACTIONS**

WHEREAS, the health and beauty of the Hudson River is critical to the economic vitality of our communities, 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, PCB's are the most significant contaminant limiting full use and enjoyment of the Hudson River; and

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

WHEREAS, PCB's 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 PCB's; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town and Village of Harrison 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 methods as well as innovative technologies that can be used to destroy PCBs.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town and Village of Harrison urges that the U. S. EPA complete the Hudson River Reassessment as expeditiously as possible.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci and Strati
Councilwoman Pritchard
Supervisor Bianchi

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

January 21, 1998

98-48

**REQUEST FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE
HUDSON RIVER AS AN AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER**

WHEREAS, the American Rivers Heritage Initiative was announced by President Clinton on February 4th, 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 patterns 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 re-development, 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,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town and Village of Harrison supports the application and urges the President to designate the Hudson River as an American Heritage River.

So moved by Councilman Vetere, seconded by Councilman Strati.

Adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmen Vetere, Scappaticci and Strati
Councilwoman Pritchard
Supervisor Bianchi

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None