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12/00  
Fox  
Muszyński  
cc: Caspe  
Bellow  
Doug T.

DECEMBER 28, 2000

TO: President-Elect George W. Bush, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner; Region II USEPA Administrator Jeanne M. Fox; U.S. Sen-Elect Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer; U.S. Rep. John Sweeney; New York Gov. George E. Pataki; New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill; New York State Sen. Ronald B. Stafford, and New York State Assemblyman Bobby D'Andrea and New York State Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little.

Enclosed please find a copy of Resolution No. of 2000 adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich at a duly held meeting on Thursday, December 28, 2000.

Sincerely,

*Elaine A Kelly*

Elaine A. Kelly, RMC, CMC,  
Town Clerk

OPM/PPFB  
01 JAN -8 PM 1:23  
US EPA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
2001 JAN -9 PM 3:37  
U.S. EPA, REGION II  
EMER. & REM. RES. DIV.

10.6145

## **Opposing Dredging of the Upper Hudson River**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has decided to dredge 2.65 million cubic yards of buried sediment from the Upper Hudson River, thus reversing its 1984 decision that stated large scale dredging would be "environmentally devastating to the river ecosystem.", and

WHEREAS, PCB landfill projects have twice before been proposed for agricultural properties in the Town of Fort Edward and have twice been stopped through legal action, political action and the vigilance of citizens of Fort Edward, Washington County and the anti-dredging citizens group known as CEASE, and

WHEREAS, we, the Town Board of the Town of Greenwich have steadfastly opposed Upper Hudson River remediation options that involve PCB dredge-and-landfill projects of any kind, and have asked other municipalities to join us in opposition to such projects based on their negative regional impacts, and

WHEREAS, the EPA Hudson River dredging project would dig up 80,000 pounds of river sediment to capture every 1 pound of PCBs, and

WHEREAS, EPA has proposed a PCB dredging project that would remove 500 acres of sediment, and

WHEREAS, a project that enormous is fifteen to twenty times larger than any ever accomplished before, and

WHEREAS, a project that massive would have significant, long-term adverse environmental, economic and social consequences for all Upper Hudson River communities, and

WHEREAS, EPA's dredging project would especially affect the agricultural industry, which depends on consumer confidence in the purity of its products, confidence likely to be undermined by dredging five hundred acres of contaminated river sediments as EPA has proposed, and

WHEREAS, EPA's dredging project will require enormous sludge de-watering facilities; sludge holding depots; staging areas and approximately 176,000 truck trips and,

WHEREAS, EPA's dredging project would especially impair the continuing efforts to make local communities attractive places to live, work and raise families, and because a PCB dredge project would destroy forever the pastoral quality of life that is our greatest asset, and

WHEREAS, a project that enormous would disrupt normal recreational use of the river and jeopardize future public and private investments in river-related amenities affecting the entire Upper Hudson region, and

WHEREAS, the mere possibility of a PCB dredge project adversely affects land values throughout the Upper Hudson region and discourages private investment that might lead to the creation of new jobs, and

WHEREAS, EPA ignored repeated requests from representatives of Washington County and many local governments to evaluate all of the adverse impacts of a PCB dredging project on the resources and economy of the county, and

WHEREAS, a significant body of scientific evidence demonstrates that conditions in the Hudson River are improving, with PCB levels declining in water, sediment and fish, such the State of New York has reopened the catch-and-release fishery in the Upper River, and

WHEREAS, dredging contaminated sediments has been shown to be ineffective in improving environmental conditions elsewhere, and

WHEREAS, there is no credible scientific evidence that dredging sediments from the bottom of the Hudson River would significantly accelerate the improvements already taking place as a result of ongoing remediation work and the river's natural recovery processes, and

WHEREAS, EPA itself determined in 1984 that a major dredging project "cannot be considered to adequately protect the environment," (USEPA, Superfund Record of Decision at Page 8) and determined that "the actual reliability and effectiveness of current dredging technologies in this particular situation is subject to considerable uncertainty," (Decision at Page 11), and

WHEREAS, an EPA official quoted in the New York Times acknowledges that the agency has never had to clean a river like the Hudson; "legendary for its swift and variable currents...", and

WHEREAS, the Greenwich Town Board finds there is no demonstrated environmental benefit to EPA's dredge project on the Hudson River and many unmitigated long-term negative environmental, economic and social consequences affecting the entire region, and

WHEREAS, the Greenwich Town Board supports the position of the citizens' group CEASE in concluding that the EPA's massive dredging project would be a gross, unwarranted and unnecessary insult to the Hudson River itself and the communities of the Upper Hudson region, now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greenwich Town Board hereby expresses its opposition to EPA's Hudson River dredging proposal and hereby transmits notice of such opposition, in writing, to President-Elect George W. Bush, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner; Region II USEPA Administrator Jeanne M. Fox; U.S. Sen-Elect Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer; U.S. Rep. John Sweeney; New York Gov. George E. Pataki; New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill; New York State Sen. Ronald B. Stafford, and New York State Assemblyman Bobby D'Andrea and New York State Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little.