

**RESOLUTION #27 of 2000**

**Opposing Dredging of the Upper Hudson River and Creation of a Toxic Waste Landfill**

**WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reassessing its 1984 decision not to dredge the Upper Hudson River to remove buried sediment containing PCB's, and**

**WHEREAS, the EPA has recently released a report that suggests the Agency may be preparing to reverse its position and order dredging, 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 surrounding communities, and**

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

**WHEREAS, a PCB dredge-and-landfill project would have significant, long-term adverse environmental, economic, and social consequences for all Upper Hudson River communities, especially affecting the agricultural industry, which depends on consumer confidence in the purity of its products, confidence likely to be undermined by the presence of a hazardous waste landfill; and especially impairing the continuing efforts to make local communities attractive places to live, work and raise families because of PCB landfill would destroy forever the pastoral quality of life that is our greatest asset, and**

**WHEREAS, a Hudson River dredging project 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-and-landfill project adversely affects land values throughout the Upper Hudson and discourages private investment that might lead to the creation of new jobs, and**

**WHEREAS, representatives of Washington County and many local governments have taken an active role in EPA's public meetings and have repeatedly asked EPA to evaluate all the adverse impacts of a PCB landfill on the resources and economy of the county, and**

**WHEREAS, EPA has conducted no such evaluation and has made no commitment to conduct such an evaluation before any decision to establish a PCB landfill is reached, and**

**WHEREAS, a significant body of scientific evidence demonstrates that conditions in the Hudson River are improving, with PCB levels declining in water, sediments and fish, such that 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 "could be environmentally devastating to the river ecosystem and 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, EPA recognized that the many tons of material to be removed in a dredging project would require an "impractically large containment facility" (Decision at Page 8), and**

**WHEREAS, the Town Board of Northumberland finds there is no demonstrated environmental benefit to a dredge-and-landfill project on the Hudson River and many unmitigated long term negative environmental, economic and social consequences affecting the entire region, and**

**WHEREAS, the Town Board of Northumberland finds that a dredge-and-landfill 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 Town Board of Northumberland, in concert with the Town Board of Fort Edward, hereby expresses its opposition to Hudson River remediation measures that involve dredge-and-landfill efforts of any kind and hereby transmits notice of such opposition, in writing, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner; Region II USEPA Administrator Jeanne M. Fox; U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; U.S. Representative John E. Sweeney; New York Governor George E. Pataki; New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John Cahill; New York State Senator Ronald B. Stafford, and New York State Assemblymen Bobby D'Andrea and New York State Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little.**

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Town Board finds that a dredge-and-landfill 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 Stillwater Town board hereby expresses opposition to Hudson River remediation measures that involve dredge-and-landfill efforts of any kind and hereby transmits notice of such opposition, in writing, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner, Region II USEPA Administrator Jeanne M. Fox; U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; U.S. Representative John E. Sweeney; New York Governor George E. Patacki; New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner John C. Illi; New York State Senator Joseph L. Bruno and New York State Assemblyman Robert Trentiss.

Voting in favor: Supervisor Lilac, Council Members Petronis, Ronda & Winchell

Voting against: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Councilman Baker

STATE OF NEW YORK       )  
COUNTY OF SARATOGA    ) ss:

I, ROSE PETRONIS, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy, and the whole thereof, of a Resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Stillwater on the 20th day of April, 2000.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 25th day of April, 2000.

Rose Petronis  
Town Clerk