



Quality of Life Coalition
Hoboken, NJ

P.O. Box 1195
Hoboken, NJ 07030

November 26, 2017

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Land Use Regulation
P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 501-02A
501 East State Street
Trenton, N.J. 08625
Attn: Hudson County Section Chief

Dear Hudson County Section Chief:

Re: NJDEP Waterfront Development Permit Application by Port Imperial Ferry Corp. d/b/a NY Waterway for Block 259, Lot 1; 901 Sinatra Drive, City of Hoboken, Hudson County

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Hoboken Quality of Life Coalition, Inc., in opposition to the Port Imperial Ferry Corp. waterfront application referenced above which seeks to place an industrial refueling and repair station for up to 34 ferries squarely between two active, much-utilized park settings that offer Hoboken citizens and our visitors fishing, kayaking, skateboarding, a natural intertidal beach, and that rarity of urban life—beautiful and healthful open space.

The Hoboken Quality of Life Coalition is a community organization comprised of various groups and individuals concerned about the need for open space, air and water quality, as well as the density of development, busy streets, flooding, and the host of difficulties that impact our environment in a densely populated urban city. Since at least 1975, local citizen environmentalists and activists led by Helen Manogue and the Hoboken Environment Committee, a predecessor organization to the Hoboken QLC, have fought to protect our waterfront. In 1975, battle was waged in the face of attempts to bring 17 oil storage tanks to the Hudson River along the Hoboken and Weehawken waterfront. According to the New York Times, a Stevens Institute of Technology study of the Hoboken waterfront at that time considered the oil tank proposal as “low grade use of waterfront property” that could commit Hoboken to 50 more years of industrial use of the land. And yet, here we are, **over 40 years later**, still fighting the industrialization of our waterfront.

In recognizing the inappropriateness of locating the tanks in such a densely populated section of Hoboken and Weehawken, the Natural Resources Council, a committee of the State Department of Environmental Protection, unanimously denied the request for a permit needed to construct the tanks. A member of the Council stated, “for too long people in this state have ignored the quality of life for those who reside in urban systems” and recognized that waterfront resources had already been pushed to their limit. Please

*As a 501c3 organization recognized by the IRS, the **Hoboken Quality of Life Coalition** marshals the energy and resources of local supporters in our ongoing campaign to improve life in Hoboken.*

consider your predecessors' reasoned and thoughtful decision as you undertake NY Waterway's request and deny their request.

The current application will result in increased air, water and noise pollution, potential significant adverse environmental impact and will impede the long desired completion of the Hudson River Walkway in Hoboken, something our citizens and leaders have fought to conclude for many years. To even consider placement of such a heavy industrial operation on this Hoboken jewel, our waterfront, is simply senseless and ridiculous. Hoboken community members, institutions, not for profit organizations, and city, county and state governmental representatives have worked diligently for years to create our vibrant, walkable, welcoming and beautiful Waterfront Walkway.

We urge you to deny this irresponsible application which potentially subjects our citizens to environmental hazards along with increased congestion and a severe diminishment in our quality of life. At minimum, please hold open public hearings to collect information from all stakeholders, study the long term impact of this proposal and consider additional locations for NY Waterway to house their ferry maintenance, storage and refueling facility. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Kelly, Interim Coordinator