

Kathryn P. Valenta  
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Hoboken, NJ 07030

November 27, 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, NJ 08625

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

Attn: Hudson County Section Chief

To Whom It May Concern:

As a long-time Hoboken resident, I respectfully request that you reject the waterfront development permit application referenced above. Allowing NY Waterway to install a refueling and repair facility in the middle of Hoboken's waterfront park would reverse decades of progress in making our waterfront greener, more accessible and environmentally sound.

Hoboken's waterfront is critical not just for residents, but for visitors who come to our city year-round to experience and enjoy activities that can only be undertaken along the Hudson River – fishing, kayaking, running, walking, or simply sitting in a green space with uninterrupted views of Manhattan. Instead of increasing pollution, our goal should be to decrease pollution in this active residential area. The installation of this facility, with its inevitable leaks and contamination, and the introduction of commercial ferry traffic directly adjacent to a sand beach and cove where hundreds of people kayak throughout the summer is a disastrous idea. In addition, those who walk, bike, skate and stroll along the river will be put at risk by increased commercial street traffic along the already busy Sinatra Drive.

Although public transportation is important to our city and state, NY Waterway can surely find another more appropriate site for their facility along an already industrialized section of the waterfront. I would hope that the results of their study of such sites will be made public. In addition, a public hearing should be held by NJDEP on the subject to give citizens a chance to voice their concerns. A similar proposal was defeated in 2012, and the issues have not changed.

As we have done since the early 1990's, Hoboken residents will continue to fight to reclaim our waterfront. Just this past July, a local petition garnered 2,100 signatures in support of a public park at the Union Dry Dock site, and the Hoboken City Council added the site to its open space master plan. NY Waterway's proposal runs counter to Hoboken's goals, as stated by the community at large, several local organizations, the city council, the mayor and the mayor-elect. We urge you to consider the opinions of these stakeholders and weigh the potential negative consequences of this permit application carefully.

Sincerely,



Kathryn P. Valenta