

VILLAGE OF RED HOOK

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June 12, 2017

US Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave,
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Administrator Pruitt,

In 1970 Pete Seeger and the Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater* helped turn the tide in favor of enacting the 1972 Clean Water Act by sailing the *Clearwater* to Washington, DC and organizing an historic Capitol Hill forum on the need for federal clean water protections, where Seeger said,

"The problems of the American Rivers can't be solved by people who live on them. Only the Federal Government has the power to enact and enforce the laws that are needed."

The Hudson River and many American waterways are much cleaner and safer as a result of the implementation of the Clean Water Act, as well as other state and national environment protection legislation and regulations.

Yet issues of serious water pollution still plague communities from Flint, Michigan to the Village of Hoosic Falls in New York.

A clean, safe and healthy environment is the cornerstone of a strong economy.

Existing federal clean water protections that have recently been rolled back or are coming under threat include:

- *The Stream Protection Rule, which previously protected waterways from surface coal mining pollution*
- *EPA rulemaking to "repeal and replace" the Waters of the United States Rule, which extended Clean Water Act protections to 60% of U.S. streams and 20 million acres of wetlands*
- *Proposed 31% cuts to EPA funding, including a 45% cut in grants to states for water protection programs, elimination of funding for the Long Island Sound Study and other regional geographic programs, resulting in a total estimated cut of \$1 billion to Office of Water programs.*

Federal water protections and robust EPA regulation and enforcement are vital to the environmental health of New York's waterways and to the safety of its drinking water and climate

change is also a water quality issue, already impacting New York's waterways and drinking water through more frequent and severe droughts and storms.

Flat-funding Federal grants will not allow States and municipalities to implement drinking and waste water infrastructure projects needed for their maintenance or remediation.

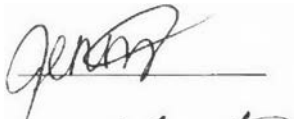
These issues and threats affect not only all New Yorkers, but all Americans.

The historic Sloop *Clearwater* will carry to Washington and deliver to federal officials a "cargo of concern" documenting the broad-based concerns of citizens, public interest groups, and municipal and state officials throughout New York about growing threats to our water and to federal clean water protections, and the need for sound, science-based water policy.

As elected officials from the Village of Red Hook we would like to register our deep concern over current rollbacks and threats to federal clean water protections as described above, affirms **the need for sound, science-based water policy and for adequate regulation, enforcement and funding**. We also wish to express support for Clearwater's leading effort to carry our concerns and those of many New Yorkers for clean water and other environmental protections directly to Washington.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



cc: Congressman John Faso

Village of Red Hook
7467 South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571

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To Mr. Pruitt 1101A



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