

**The Adirondack Council Adirondack Mountain Club Audubon New York
Catskill Center Catskill Mountain Keeper Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Clean and Healthy New York Environmental Advocates of New York
Hudson Sloop Clearwater Parks & Trails New York
Natural Resources Defense Council New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Public Interest Research Group Riverkeeper
Scenic Hudson Sierra Club**

October 28, 2015

Via US First Class Mail and Email

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of the State of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Executive Chambers
Albany, NY 12224

Re: PCBs in the Hudson River

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We're writing today with an urgent request that you add your voice and leadership to the debate raging about the future of the Hudson River in the wake of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's partial cleanup of the Hudson River.

It is understood that the EPA, as well as other federal agencies, have an important role to play in determining the adequacy of the remedial action that has occurred to date and whether additional dredging is warranted under either the remedial or Natural Resource Damage provisions of federal law. However, New York State, in its fundamental role as steward and guardian of our state's valuable natural resources and public health, must be the final voice in determining whether the cleanup meets its intended goals and complies with state and federal standards.

We stand united in stating that this is an issue of regional, statewide and national concern, setting important precedents. If the future of the Hudson River, Champlain Canal and public health can be written off without objection from the state, what other resources will be next?

The evidence is clear: The amount of residual contamination following completion of the EPA's cleanup will impose a heavy financial burden on state taxpayers, create a barrier for commercial and natural restoration opportunities, and, worst of all, expose our communities and those who are subsisting off Hudson River fish to unacceptable health risks for decades. One of the most important goals of this cleanup—fish that are safe to eat—is being postponed for decades and even generations under decisions being made right now.

We ask for an opportunity to meet with Acting Commissioner Gerstman, Commissioner Zucker and Secretary Perales to identify steps New York State can take to achieve its goals as a party to the Superfund cleanup and a Natural Resource Trustee. We implore you, as leader of the state agencies responsible for protecting the public health and safeguarding our most valuable natural resources, to fight for an adequate remedial action and full restoration of the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.

Sincerely,

Ramsay Adams, Executive Director
Catskill Mountain Keeper

Peter Gross, Executive Director
Hudson Sloop Clearwater

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Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Jeff Senterman, Executive Director
Catskill Center

Paul Gallay, President
Riverkeeper

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Adirondack Mountain Club

CC: Eric Schneiderman, N.Y. State Office of the Attorney General

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N.Y. State Assembly Hudson Valley Delegation
N.Y. State Senate Hudson Valley Delegation
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Gary Klawinski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Gina McCarthy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dr. Nathan M. Graber, Center for Environmental Health
Dr. Howard A. Zucker, Department of Health
Marc Gerstman, N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation
Kevin Farrar, N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation
Bridget Boyd, N.Y. State Department of Health
Audrey Van Genechten, N.Y. State Department of Health
Brian U. Stratton, N.Y. State Canal Corporation
Jeffrey Immelt, General Electric