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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 28, 2016

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and  
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

**HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Conservation  
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,  
Horticulture, and Research

**HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy  
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and  
Workforce

Judith Enck  
Regional Administrator, Region 2  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Regional Administrator Enck,

As you may know, the Environmental Protection Agency's recent decision to deem the dredging of the Hudson River complete has had a tremendous impact on the watershed communities in and around New York's 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I have heard extensively from constituents and local stakeholders who have both praised the dredging work completed to date as well as those who have concerns with the decision to cease these operations.

To that end, substantial data has been brought to my attention, including data used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to guide their opinions that the dredging should continue. Their data points to the conclusion that additional dredging operations could be beneficial to the recovery of the river, watershed, and wildlife. Given that this data is seemingly inconsistent with the EPA's decision to deem the dredging operations complete and successful, I respectfully request answers to the following questions:

1. What data did the EPA use to make its final decision?
2. What guidelines were the EPA required to follow in making a determination that the dredging is complete and successful?
3. How does the recently-started 5-year review process work and at what point(s) does the EPA reassess its decision to halt/cease dredging operations?
4. If the decision is made to restart dredging of the Hudson River, how much would such a restart cost and on whom would that financial burden be placed?
5. Will the EPA continue to accept and respond to data and analysis from stakeholders, including both private persons as well as Federal and State agencies such as NOAA and FWS, and how should such information be communicated?
6. What is the EPA's analysis of the current level of pollution of the river meant to be cleaned by the dredging operations compared to the peak level of such pollution? What are the levels expected in the out years, in 5 year intervals, and how are those expected to impact overall riverine, watershed, and public health.

Thank you very much for the consideration of these questions. I would also like to commend the EPA for the incredible work done on the overall cleanup of the Hudson River to date and the notable professionalism of EPA staff, including regional staff, in responsiveness and engagement with my office, constituents, and other stakeholders. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress