

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HUDSON RIVER SLOOP CLEARWATER’S SAIL TO WASHINGTON, DC TO MAINTAIN CLEAN WATER AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz, Ulster County, New York, held at the New Paltz Community Center, in New Paltz, New York, in said Town on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock P.M., Prevailing Time.

The meeting was called to order by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, and upon roll being called, the following roll was taken:

	<b><u>PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____
Council Member Jeffrey Logan	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____
Council Member Marty Irwin	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____

The following resolution was offered by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption, seconded by Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, to wit:

WHEREAS 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;”*** and

WHEREAS 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; and

WHEREAS issues of serious water pollution still plague communities from Flint, Michigan to the City of Newburgh or the Village of Hoosic Falls in New York; and

WHEREAS a clean, safe and healthy environment is foundational for a strong economy; and

WHEREAS existing federal clean water protections, have recently been rolled back or are coming under threat from many quarters, including:

- Using the Congressional Review Act to undo the Stream Protection Rule, which previously protected waterways from surface coal mining pollution;
- Using the EPA rulemaking process 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, and these waters and wetlands will soon lose those protections if the Rule is undone;
- Proposed 31% cuts to EPA funding, including, among other things: a 45% cut in Categorical Grants to states for water protection programs; elimination of the \$427 million funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and other regional programs; a total estimated cut of \$1 billion in Office of Water programs; and

WHEREAS proposed cuts to Superfund would undermine Superfund cleanup in 85 sites across New York State; and

WHEREAS 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

WHEREAS climate change is also a water quality issue and already impacts New York’s waterways and drinking waters through more frequent and severe droughts and storms; and

WHEREAS many water quality issues, such as phosphorus loading of our lakes and streams, directly impact aquatic life and recreation, and will require increases in Federal funding for stormwater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS drinking water contaminants which jeopardize public health and safety are just being uncovered in many existing water systems, flat-funding Federal grants will not allow States and municipalities to implement drinking and waste water infrastructure projects needed for their prevention or remediation; and

WHEREAS these issues and threats affect not only all New Yorkers, but all Americans; and

WHEREAS the 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;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Paltz hereby registers its 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 as pressure on water quality and safety continue to mount. We also wish to express our support for the effort *Clearwater* is leading to carry our concerns and concerns of many New Yorkers for clean water and other environmental protections directly to Washington.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

<u>VOTE</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Neil Bettez	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Jeffrey Logan	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Daniel Torres	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Marty Irwin	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Julie Seyfert-Lillis	_____	_____	_____

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.