Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We are writing to request that you ensure the ongoing Second Five Year Review of the Hudson River Superfund Site incorporates data collected and shared with EPA Region 2 that clearly shows the Hudson River remedy is not protective of human health and the environment. The Five Year Review presents an opportunity to realize goals that you have articulated, including the importance of cleaning up the Hudson River pollution and ensuring the Superfund program succeeds in achieving both environmental outcomes and creating jobs. We ask for your help to secure additional clean-up in the Upper Hudson River.

When EPA announced the Hudson River cleanup 15 years ago, it was a promise to New Yorkers that the long-damaged river would finally be on the path to a rapid recovery. However, after the cleanup plan was established, EPA discovered that at least 2-3 times more PCB contamination existed in Hudson River sediments than had been assumed; yet EPA did not modify the scope of the cleanup. As a result, the Hudson River remains contaminated at levels far beyond the cleanup targets EPA established. Economic development on the Upper Hudson River has long been stifled by the dark cloud of toxic pollution; communities cannot wait decades longer for a clean and usable river.

Concerns regarding the efficacy of the EPA approved remedy resulted in the New York Department of Conservation (DEC) concluding that more work needs to be done. Long-term "natural attenuation" of PCBs is not a solution to this problem. The PCBs in the Upper Hudson River are continuing to be transported down-river as far as New York harbor and beyond; in fact, scientists studying the New York/New Jersey Harbor have called the legacy of PCB contamination an "economic ball and chain." PCB levels in fish in the lower Hudson River are not declining as expected, pointing to the need for investigation of downriver contamination and

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appropriate remedial action. New Yorkers must not be left holding the bag for contamination that will render the Hudson River a Superfund site for generations to come.

New York State has a long and proud history of conservation in conjunction with economic development, and the Hudson River is a national symbol as an American Heritage River. As New Yorkers who live, work, and play along the Hudson River, we know that additional cleanup is needed to improve our economy, and health, and quality of life.

Finally, we emphasize that a credible Five Year Review is crucial to ensure the integrity of the federal Superfund program, given that the Hudson is one of the largest and most visible sites in the country. We look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress