

Contact the Hudson River Navigator:

Vincent (Vinny) Tamagna
Hudson River Valley Institute
Marist College FN 304
3399 North Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-1387

ph: 845-575-3470
fax: 845-575-3176
mobile: 914-714-9533
vinny.navigator@gmail.com
hrvi@marist.edu

Navigator Supports Hudson River Valley Special Resource Study Act

The Hudson River Valley Special Resource Study Act, Congressman Maurice Hinchey's bill calling for a National Park Service study to determine if the Hudson River Valley should become a unit of the National Park system, has passed in the House of Representatives. The study will evaluate the possibility of National Park designation for area of the Hudson River, "That flows from Rodgers Island at Fort Edward (Washington County) to the southern-most boundary of Westchester County, New York; and includes any relevant sites and landscapes within the counties in New York that abut the area."

The legislation has been spearheaded by Congressman Hinchey and backed by strong support from legislators throughout the region on the national, state and local levels. Hinchey, who has a long history of promoting and protecting the resources of the Hudson River Valley, has previously authored the legislation that led to the creation the Hudson River Valley Greenway, as well as the legislation that led to the establishment of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, both of which assist local entities in the management of natural and historic sites. Regarding the passage of the bill, Hinchey said, "The House recognized the historical and natural significance of the Hudson River Valley by calling on the National Park Service to conduct a study to determine if the region would be a good fit with the National Park system."

In support of Congressman Hinchey's bill, Putnam County Assemblyman Vinny Tamagna drafted and passed a resolution on behalf of the Putnam County Legislature. Tamagna also presented resolutions to Westchester, Dutchess, and Rockland County to encourage memorializing resolutions in support of the Hudson River Valley Special Resource Study Act. Furthermore, as Hudson River Navigator, Tamagna has diligently continued to gather the support of historic sites, agencies and partnerships throughout the region. It has been through the continued efforts of Tamagna and others like him that Hinchey's bill gained the support necessary to pass in the House of Representatives.

Upon the passing of the bill in the House of Representatives, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand took the bill to the Senate for approval. Regarding the status of the bill Hinchey commented, "I am optimistic that this bill will soon pass the Senate and be signed into law by the president, allowing the area to gain proper national recognition that would make it more attractive to visitors and businesses. This is a momentous day for those of us who live in the Hudson River Valley and one that I believe will eventually lead to a National Park designation for the region." Once the president signs the bill, the National Park system study will examine current park unit models and other landscape protection models that encompass areas of non-federal lands, foster collaborative arrangements between public and private entities, and protect the rights of private land owners and provide their recommendations further action.