

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
BY
BILL MCGINTEE**

EAST HAMPTON TOWN SUPERVISOR

I am Bill McGintee, East Hampton Town Supervisor. Thank you for this opportunity to address the subcommittee.

The movement of the LNG carriers with their huge safety zones is going to have a huge, detrimental impact on the East End of Long Island. The ships are so dangerous that the Coast Guard requires a moving safety zone around them 6,000 yards long and 1,600 yards wide. That is 60 football fields long and 16 football fields wide, moving with the ship at 10 knots.

The Race, the most dangerous part of the route for the LNG carriers to navigate, is one of the most heavily used fishing spots on the East End. Vessels, particularly vessels from East Hampton, utilize that area almost every day, weather permitting.

The use of the passage between Montauk Point and Block Island is limited by weather conditions and vessel draft and cannot be used by LNG carriers at all times. This route is inappropriate for this cargo.

Moreover, the Coast Guard admits that it does not have the resources “to implement that have been identified as being necessary to manage the potential risk” and that local agencies would require to assist.

Much of the burden for providing adequate security for the LNG carriers and their security zones, as well as some of the security to the FRSU itself, would fall upon the Town of East Hampton and the Marine Patrol Unit. The Broadwater Proposal would require law enforcement from the Town of East Hampton to keep vessels out of the security zone to escort

tankers, to arrest and impound fishing and other boats obstructing the security zone, aid and assist those with medical emergencies on the vessels and to deal with law enforcement issues on the carriers and even the LNG facility. In addition, the Town would be required to assist with clearing and assisting vessels and tankers in navigation mishaps in the shallow waters of Montauk Channel. The Town is not at all equipped to meet these demands, especially for the benefit of a for-profit operation such as Broadwater. Further, the Town is not able to meet homeland security demands. The Town's fleet currently consists of two 28 foot marine patrol boats, one 32 foot work boat and several 20 foot outboards. None of these boats is armed. None is adequate.

In addition, we ask this committee to consider the on-shore law enforcement and security challenges Broadwater would present. For example, accidents or mishaps involving LNG carriers with dangerous cargos in the East Hampton/Montauk area would require the Town Harbormasters to close Montauk inlet and would require the local police to close on-shore facilities, tourist attractions and the docks in the Montauk harbor area.

The Town of East Hampton is frequently called upon to assist the Coast Guard even with its current more limited duties. Frankly, it appears that the Coast Guard lacks the resources to maintain even the current level of need in Montauk. The Town currently assists the Coast Guard, but is not reimbursed. Thus, even if the Town had adequate resources, assistance with the safety and security necessary for Broadwater would have a devastating budgetary impact.