

[Insert the date]

Via Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>

Mr. Barry Dragon
Director, Bridge Branch,
U.S. Coast Guard Seventh District
909 SE First Ave.
Miami, Florida 33131

RE: Federal Register Docket No. USCG-2019-0714: Proposed Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New River, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Dear Director Dragon:

We are writing to provide comments on the proposed test deviation for the regulation related to the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) Railroad Drawbridge Operation on the New River, Fort Lauderdale, FL, published in the Federal Register Docket Number USCG-2019-0714.

The overarching principle of the laws and regulations governing bridges over navigable waters of the United States is to keep them open so as to avoid unreasonable obstruction of the free navigation of the waterway. Recognizing some vessels must rely on the tides to safely navigate the river. Ensuring that the bridge tender is doing his or her job, maintaining effective signage and lighting, and establishing the ability to communicate through multimedia outlets such as social media and/or reliable apps when problems arise also are all essential to avoiding any undue obstruction to the use of the waterway.

[Insert at this point the following: (1) a description of your business or association and what you do in the marine industry; (2) statement about your dependence on the unobstructed and predictable use of the waterway and need for unimpeded transit; and (3) discussion of specific negative experiences you have had with the bridge operations.]

As you can see, a business like ours is heavily dependent on unobstructed access to navigate the New River. This waterway is essential to the economic health of our industry and for the safety of those who navigate on the river. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and urge the Coast Guard to make every effort to make sure that there is no unreasonable obstruction of the free navigation of the New River in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Sincerely,