I am a resident of Yonkers NY. It appears that the redistricting committee is not familiar with Yonkers, imagining that we are one of the small river towns of the Mid-Hudson Valley. In fact we are a far larger city than White Plains which is about a quarter of our size. Yonkers is the fourth largest city in the state and by far the largest city in Westchester.

The city of Yonkers is racially, ethnically, and economically diverse. The diversity of Yonkers’ population is more comparable to that of New York State’s other large cities, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo, than it is to the rural/suburban towns of Westchester county. The character of the city is urban/suburban. We share little with in character with the lovely rural-suburban towns of the Mid-Hudson Valley like Irvington, Rye Brook, and Dobbs Ferry. On the other hand, I belong to several organizations spanning the Bronx Westchester line. Southwestern Yonkers flows into the northern Bronx and Riverdale with scant demarcation. Many in South Yonkers consider themselves residents of the sixth NYC borough.

As the largest city in Westchester, Yonkers should figure more prominently in the discussion of congressional district boundaries. The character of Yonkers and the diverse neighboring cities of Mount Vernon and New Rochelle should be afforded greater consideration in redistricting. Effort should be made to provide a congressional district that reflects the many cultures of the area rather than attenuate it. Addition of a large swath of Mid-Hudson River towns does a disservice to lower Westchester,