To the NYIRC:

I was dismayed to see the new redistricting maps, which I believe disregard critical issues of diversity, community building, the environment, and housing inequity that impact the current NYCD16 district.

North Bronx and Southern Westchester have numerous commonalities.

I am a writer covering stories about environmental justice and human rights issues. Since I moved to the Bronx, I have been an active citizen regarding concerns where forged alliances among disparate groups have

been able to make our voices heard in Congress.

The new maps render these connections inoperable when the fight for clean air and water couldn't be more essential. A top priority has been to connect the water pollution which emanates from Mount Vernon to the Bronx.

Riverdale and Yonkers are especially connected as families work, live, and go to school in both areas. The pandemic evidenced this when the early cases of COVID-19 rapidly impacted families in both regions.

Regarding the State Senate and Assembly seats, I subscribe to the same reasoning.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Marcia G. Yerman