My name is Ray Hodell, and I have lived on the Upper West Side for 32 years. I am also a longtime member of one of the West Side's political clubs.

The proposed draft of the 67th Assembly District fails to keep communities of interest together. The current lines of the 67th Assembly district have remained stable over the past 30-40 years, and have included the Hell's Kitchen and Upper West Side communities. Both the northern and southern sections of the district have many of the same issues, and throughout the years residents have frequented the same houses of worship, schools, supermarkets and public transportation.

The proposed draft line threatens to fracture that community by arbitrarily dividing the district. Those living in the West 90s have more in common with their neighbors in the West 80s than they do with those living near Columbia University. That area is younger and more transient, while the West 80s and 90s have more coops and condos. Additionally, those living in the West 50s have far more in common with me and my neighbors living in the West 60s than those in the Flatiron area.

The Commission must keep these communities of interest together by rejecting its proposed plan of the 67 Assembly district. The current lines of the 67 Assembly district are representative of like-minded constituencies, and must be kept in place.