



11/12/2021

To the New York State Redistricting Commission:

My name is Roger Gendron and I am the President of the New Hamilton Beach Civic Association in Hamilton Beach. In New York's 8th congressional district, the residents and businesses of Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach in southwest Queens form a "community of interest" with the Brooklyn neighborhoods, such as Canarsie and Mill Basin, located on the coast of Jamaica Bay. Rising sea levels due to climate change and the communities' mentioned above are in close proximity to the Jamaica Bay which makes the entire area vulnerable to severe flooding. Consequently, these factors also create a common need for a very particular type of federal assistance: disaster relief and pre-disaster coastal storm risk mitigation.

In 2012, Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach and the shoreline communities of south Brooklyn were significantly impacted by Superstorm Sandy, which was one of the deadliest and costliest natural disasters in our nation's history. In the immediate aftermath, these neighborhoods looked to their representative in Congress to speak for their urgent and unique needs and secure aid to help families and businesses recover and rebuild. More recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been considering and/or working on several projects that would address coastal flooding in the areas of Queens and Brooklyn that border Jamaica Bay, including the New York/New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study, the Spring Creek South (Howard Beach) Ecosystem Restoration and Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) – Stony Creek Marsh Island Ecosystem Restoration Project.

It is essential that we keep this "community of interest" intact so to ensure that the shared needs and concerns of all the stakeholders who live in our communities, which are all connected due to living and working near the shores of Jamaica Bay, remain a focus and a priority for our representative in Congress. For the reasons set forth above, I strongly urge the commission to keep the communities of the NY-08 together in a similar configuration to the current lines.

Regards,

*Roger Gendron, President*