Good afternoon.

My name is Lyn Hill. I live at 395 Bergen Street between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, in the northwestern portion of Park Slope. I’ve lived at this address for 46 years. During all of that time, my address has been within the 52nd Assembly District, and I am very pleased that the proposed new district lines would keep my home in the 52nd.

However, I’m disturbed that the current proposal for the 52nd Assembly District would break apart an established community of interest, known as Brownstone Brooklyn. Included in Brownstone Brooklyn are the neighborhoods of Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Park Slope. The 52nd AD has long included Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and the northern half of Park Slope.

During the last third of the twentieth century, while many New Yorkers left the city, middle class teachers, social workers, civil servants and professionals who recognized the opportunity to build community in the low-rise neighborhoods of Brownstone Brooklyn settled here. These individuals and families invested in homes in the Brownstone neighborhoods and, together, they actively worked to improve city services and make the neighborhoods safe and attractive places for their families. A new generation of Brownstone Brooklyn residents has joined us during the first decades of the 21st century, and they are continuing the tradition of working together to improve life in our communities, our borough and our city.

For example, environmental issues are a particular concern for members of the Brownstone Brooklyn community, and it is notable that Community Board 2, which includes Brooklyn Heights and Boerum Hill and Community Board 6, which includes Park Slope, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill, are among the very few areas in New York City where, because of community interest and advocacy, curbside composting is currently available and has been successfully received.

As I’m sure you are aware, the development of the Gowanus Canal area has been of great interest and importance to Brownstone Brooklyn; a survey of newsletters from Community Board 6, will demonstrate the number of meetings and hearings that have consumed our community over the past 15 years. Much of western Park Slope and eastern Carroll Gardens abut the Gowanus Canal and residents of these areas will be significantly impacted by any decisions that are made. Our Assemblymember, Jo Anne Simon, has long been heavily involved in discussions and decision-making on issues related to the development along the Gowanus Canal and its uplands. The Canal is an EPA Superfund site and much of the uplands are NYS brownfield sites slated for massive environmental clean-up. Yet, the proposed new district would cut off nearly all the areas that surround the Gowanus Canal and would remove a legislator with a long history of involvement from the discussions.

It makes little sense to me, to have broken off all but the very northern tip of Park Slope, as well as Carroll Gardens and Gowanus, from the 52nd, while adding a small part of Fort Greene, which would be an entirely new neighborhood in the district and separated from its own traditional neighborhood. I respectfully ask that you consider eliminating the areas east of Flatbush Avenue from the 52nd and instead restore the area of Park Slope that is west of Flatbush Avenue and south of Sterling place, as well as the southern area of Carroll Gardens and Gowanus.

Thank you very much.