NYS Independent  Redistricting Commission

250 Broadway

NYC 10007

My name is Greg Lambert and I have lived in New York City for most of my life. I believe very strongly that it makes perfect sense to keep the East Side of Manhattan in a district that is separate from the West Side..

Manhattan is aligned along the north/south access – subway and bus lines go north to south. It is much harder to go from east to west. It can take l much longer to go from Riverside Drive to East End Avenue than it would to go from 96th Street to Houston, a much longer distance. **As a result of this natural alignment, institutions and communities have developed with an orientation that is north to south**.

The clearest example of the North/South orientation is the East Side Medical Corridor with nearly 20 major hospitals, medical schools and research facilities arrayed from 14th Street to the upper 70s . As a former VP of the Bellevue Hospital Day care center, I know fist hand how important cooperation among these hospitals is  and I hope this Commission will not harm that.  Additionally, museum mile, along 5th Avenue, has 10 major institutions from the Museum of African Art to the Metropolitan Museum from 105th to 82nd Street. Similarly, on the West Side, the theaters are aligned along Broadway.

Historically the East and West Sides have had very different temperaments and expectations, and they have wanted different things from their elected officials. For decades, it was recognized these different areas should have two strong two strong Representatives and do we have them. Anything that will weaken either Representative Nadler or Maloney will be recognized as an attempt to suppress progressive voices, and no one wants that.

To preserve this delicate balance, I strongly urge this Commission to continue the decade long practice of treating the East and West side as distinct units.  If it is not broke, why change? The interests of these two diverse communities would be hurt if they were put together in the same Congressional district, and they would create unnecessary conflict

Thank you for your consideration of this. If you need any have any question, I can be reached at wedernyc@aol.com or 7703-608-3770.

Greg Lambert