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**Testimony from State Senator Liz Krueger**  
**to the New York City Redistricting Commission**  
**Regarding Proposed District Maps**  
**for Council Districts 4, 5 and 26**

I am Liz Krueger, the State Senator for the Upper East Side and portions of East Midtown and Midtown. I am offering comments on proposed district lines as they impact communities of interest overlapping my Senate District. I am very concerned with the transfer of Roosevelt Island and significant portions of the East Side to a primarily Queens-centered district. These neighborhoods are part of a single community of interest with the Upper East Side, and have a shared history, infrastructure and institutional relationships. The lines as proposed will result in less streamlined, less effective representation for the residents of these areas. I urge the commission to correct this error by adopting the map submitted by Manhattan Community Boards 6 and 8 that keeps these communities of interest united within two Manhattan-based Council Districts.

The Commission's proposed Preliminary Plan #1 redistricting map moves approximately 54 blocks of the easterly side of the Upper East Side, Sutton Place and Roosevelt Island to a Queens-based City Council District. These draft lines split communities of interest in the current Council District 5, and also move key institutions that serve these communities into a disconnected district. These include Community School District 2 schools, as well as parks and healthcare institutions. Furthermore, two-borough districts that have existed in the past have been comprised of contiguous neighborhoods that have similar demographics, share similar public transportation, public education and other services. The Manhattan and Queens areas of the proposed Council District 26 do not have these similarities.

Community Boards 6 and 8 have submitted a map that restores these communities of interest by uniting these communities in two Manhattan based districts. This map would make the following changes to the proposed redistricting plan:

- Give CD4 back the area between Stuyvesant Town and 34th Street east of 1st Avenue
- Give CD2 (from CD4) the blocks between Broadway and 5th Avenue south of 39th Street.
- Incorporate the proposed westward expansion of CD4 out to 8th Avenue to cover the Broadway core instead of leaving it divided between two districts.
- Trace that up 8th Avenue to Columbus Circle, where CD4 currently ends.

- Give CD5 back Roosevelt Island, Sutton Area, and the parts in the East 60's and 70s, with minor modification of the area just south of 79th so the new line would be 78th (Lexington to 3rd) and 77th (3rd-2nd).
- Keep the previous district lines for CD4 and CD5 along Lexington from 79th up to 96th.
- Give Council District 8 all of the area north of 96th Street from CD4 and CD5.

These proposed changes would create districts that meet the requirements of the New York City Charter. It should be noted that the Charter gives priority to districts that “keep intact neighborhoods and communities with established ties of common interest and association, whether historical, racial, economic, ethnic, religious or other.” The Community Board 6 and 8 Map meets this critical requirement and the proposed commission map does not.

I urge the commission to amend the City Council districting proposal to address these concerns, and believe that the maps proposed by Manhattan Community Boards 6 and 8 offer the best alternative. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.