



DISTRICT OFFICE
 217 HAVEMEYER ST., 2ND FLOOR
 BROOKLYN, NY 11211
 (718) 963-3141
 FAX: (718) 963-4527

CITY HALL OFFICE
 250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1740
 NEW YORK, NY 10007
 (212) 788-7095
 FAX (212) 788-7296

THE COUNCIL
 OF
 THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DIANA REYNA
 COUNCIL MEMBER, 34TH DISTRICT

CHAIR
 SMALL BUSINESS

COMMITTEES
 LAND USE
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 FINANCE
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBCOMMITTEES
 ZONING AND FRANCHISES

September 13, 2013

Dear Distinguished Members of the Industrial Business Zone Boundary Commission:

As Chair of the Committee on Small Business, I am writing to express my support for the Woodside Industrial Business Zone. The addition of manufacturing land to the IBZ program is a welcomed revision.

Over the last decade, the Queens’ industrial sector has suffered significant losses. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that from 2001 to 2011, Queens lost almost 45% of its industrial jobs, a total reduction of over 17,000 individual jobs. Manufacturing throughout the rest of New York City experienced similar declines during this time period.

Manufacturing businesses have been a pillar of middle class families in this city for generations. It is incumbent upon our policy makers to make every effort to preserve the industrial jobs that provide higher wages, more benefits, and greater job security than the ever-expanding retail and service sectors.

One of the most significant and impactful methods to support manufacturing businesses is through progressive land use policy. By preventing the speculation and conversion of manufacturing-zoned land, policies like the IBZ program help stabilize costs for manufacturing businesses. By creating more competitive manufacturing areas, the City can help retain and recreate the essential, middle class jobs that support working families across the five boroughs.

Once again, I enthusiastically support the addition of the Woodside Industrial Business Zone. Furthermore, as the Commission discusses the designation of additional land in Queens to the IBZ program, I hope that it considers the South of Myrtle Avenue (SOMA) industrial area in Ridgewood, Queens. As was outlined in the testimony I submitted last year, the SOMA industrial area is an essential source of employment in the local community. Community support for this designation ranges from local development agencies like the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation and the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District to the local community board. I strongly recommend the designation of the SOMA area as an Industrial Business Zone.

Sincerely,

Diana Reyna
 Council Member, 34th District