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**THE SENATE**  
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**ALBANY**

**MAJORITY SECRETARY**  
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AGRICULTURE  
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EDUCATION  
FINANCE  
HEALTH  
NEW YORK CITY EDUCATION

July 17, 2020

Hon. Bill de Blasio  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Gowanus Canal Rezoning

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I agree with the hundreds of my constituents who have called and e-mailed me suggesting that the proposed Gowanus Canal rezoning be placed on hold until the city and state can reassess the needs of our communities given the challenges they are currently facing. Many have focused on the economic downturn stemming from the pandemic. They believe that our resources and attention should be on strengthening our local economy rather than luxury apartment buildings that will probably remain vacant for years to come.

The proposed rezoning will eliminate manufacturing zones that, if available for activation during the pandemic, could have served our city well in supplying needed resources while creating jobs.

Additionally, prior to the pandemic, I firmly believed that any talk of rezoning before thorough environmental remediation of the canal was premature. Now that we have a new reality that involves massive budget cuts, large-scale unemployment, reduced revenue and a possible recession, we must once again reexamine our plans for development going forward.

I respectfully request that you evaluate all of the points discussed here and move towards a moratorium on all rezoning related actions until we can completely reassess what is being offered versus what our new community needs are.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Velmanette Montgomery

25<sup>th</sup> Senate District

Cc: Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez  
Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams  
Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon  
Council Member Stephen Levin  
Council Member Brad Lander  
Council Member Carlos Menchaca  
Brooklyn Community Board 6  
Beverly Corbin  
Fifth Avenue Committee  
FUREE  
FROGG: Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus