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Testimony of State Senator Brad Hoylman Before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Regarding 138 Second Avenue

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Landmarks Preservation Commission today regarding your consideration of individual landmark designation for 138 Second Avenue, located in the East Village and in New York State's 27th Senate District. Before I address the reasons why I believe this particular site warrants designation, I first want to commend the Landmarks Preservation Commission for undertaking the ambitious Backlog Initiative, which will give due consideration to the 95 inactive properties under its purview.

138 Second Avenue is one of the last extant federal-style houses in the East Village. As Manhattan Community Board 3's resolution unanimously endorsing landmark status for the site notes, "138 Second Avenue is a rare intact link to the days when this stretch of Second Avenue was one of the premiere residential addresses in New York."

The designation of 138 Second Avenue would also be in line with previous decisions by the Commission, such as the granting of individual landmark status to Nos. 4 and 20 St. Mark's Place. These two sites share 138 Second Avenue's Gibbs door surround, the Flemish bond brickwork, and the home's remarkable scale.

For these reasons, it is understandable why the Landmarks Preservation Commission proposed the site for landmark designation of its own accord in 2009. I respectfully ask the Commission to follow through on its consideration of the site and name 138 Second Avenue a New York City landmark. I appreciate the Commission's time and consideration, and thank you again for the opportunity to comment.