Hi. My name is Jorge. My family moved to Sunset Park when I was 9 and has been there ever since. My parents are immigrants from Ecuador. My dad is a cab driver who works throughout Brooklyn, including in Sunset Park, and my mom cleans houses. Although I moved out recently, my loved ones remain in the neighborhood and, because of such, I feel like a stakeholder in the community.

I am concerned about Industry City’s proposal because it puts low-income immigrants, like my parents, at risk. It proposes to build luxury commercial and rental spaces that will increase rental prices and displace my neighbors and loved ones. It also purports to create jobs specifically for Sunset Park residents, yet less than 10 percent of jobs and internships at Industry City are held by our people. Rather than invest in hotels, commercial space, and new buildings, we need to preserve the industrial sector and create jobs for people currently in and from Sunset Park. We need jobs that allow for mobility. We need jobs that address the adverse impacts of climate change. Climate change is an issue that literally threatens the lives of members of my community.

To achieve this (and more), we need a community-led effort. We need to enact UPROSE’s GRID Proposal, a community-led alternative to Industry City’s Proposal. We are the experts. We know what we need and how to obtain it. We have put in the work to imagine a future for all of us, where our people are fully and humanely employed, where we mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, and where no one is forced to abandon their home because of rent increases. We want to invest in the future of our Sunset Park. We do not want to invest in the Sunset Park that Industry City is imposes upon us.

To continue with this plan is to blatantly disregard the voices and needs of the people that make Sunset Park what it is in the first place. For that reason, I encourage you to vote NO. Thank you.