



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

February 28, 2020

Dear Delegates:

On behalf of the 705,000 residents of Washington, DC, I urge your favorable consideration of House Joint Resolution 8 in support of DC Statehood.

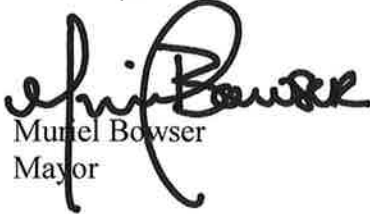
Our DC Statehood efforts are at a historic crossroads. Last month, H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, was voted out favorably by the U.S. House of Representatives Oversight Committee. In addition, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer has called for a floor vote before the summer recess. I respectfully request your support for this resolution and, in doing so, your support for full representation for the 705,000 residents for your neighbors in Washington, DC.

Our government performs the functions of state, county, and city governments. We have a robust economy; we operate a \$15.5 billion budget; and, we have balanced our budget for 24 consecutive years. Nevertheless, we operate under the constant oversight of Congress. Laws we believe represent the values of our residents are blocked or restricted without any consultation. Just like residents of the State of Maryland, our residents also pay federal taxes. In fact, our residents pay more federal taxes per capita than residents of any other state and more total federal taxes than 22 states. Despite our large tax contribution, we remain the only Americans that pay full federal taxes, but have no vote in Congress.

There are many reasons why our residents deserve the same right to representation as the rest of the country, not the least of which is that our country prides itself on being a representative democracy, and the denial of our right to representation is a glaring hypocrisy. Exemplifying this flaw in our democracy is that 30,000 veterans and 11,000 active duty members of the United States military are denied representation in their national legislature due to the single fact that they call Washington, DC their home. As you know, there is no greater service to country than military service. The fact that so many DC residents have served, and continue to serve, in our nation's military yet have no representation in the very body that decides whether to declare war is an injustice that can only be resolved through granting DC statehood.

Please know that we greatly appreciate your consideration—my Senior Advisor Beverly Perry is available for any questions you might have. She can be reached at Beverly.Perry@dc.gov or (202) 724-7173. Your support of this important resolution will put Maryland on the right side of history and help to right this historic wrong.

Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor