September 18, 2019

House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Representative Elijah Cummings – Chair
Representative Jim Jordan – Ranking Member
cc: House Committee on Oversight and Reform Members
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan:

Our nation was founded, in part, as a response to the tyranny of taxation without representation laid upon the people of the colonies by the British Crown. More than two-hundred years have passed since the United States declared our independence from that oppression. Yet, for the seven hundred thousand Americans who call Washington, DC home, this unjust system remains.

The Congress of the United States has gone beyond the efforts of King George III, by denying self-rule and impacting local laws and the spending of locally raised revenue. Liberty, the ability of a people to govern themselves is an American value, held deeply by both the Congress and the people it represents. Yet every day, Washingtonians are denied that fundamental right.

As you hear testimony and consider H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admissions Act, we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to uphold the founding principles of our democracy and our deeply held values and support full and equal representation for the people of Washington, DC.

This is not simply a matter of extending representation to the residents of Washington, DC, more than half of whom are people of color. States are the fundamental basis for our system of government and to deny a population the ability to form a state denies them the ability to fully participate in self-governance. Any solution short of statehood would simply continue the two-tiered system of citizenship present in our democracy today.

H.R. 51 preserves a constitutionally required Federal District that enshrines the area that houses the three branches of our federal government, our iconic monuments, and the National Mall and preserves it for all Americans. At the same time, it creates the 51st State out of the neighborhoods and commercial areas populated by those of us who call DC home. Statehood upholds all of the Constitution by protecting the Federal Government from control of any one state and ending the un-American exclusion of the people of Washington, DC.
We urge you to forward H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admissions Act for consideration by the full United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

DC Vote
5 Calls Civic Action
51 for 51
AFL-CIO
Alliance for Justice
American Association of University Women
American Ethical Union
American Family Voices
American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of Teachers
Americans for Democratic Action
Americans for Self-Rule
Anacostia Coordinating Council
Brady
BYP100 DC
Campaign for Youth Justice
Campaign Legal Center
Can't Stop! Won't Stop!
Center for American Progress
Center for Black Equity
Center for Disability Rights, Inc.
Center for Environmental Health
Center for Popular Democracy
Clean Water Action
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
Collier Collective, LLC
Color of Change
Communications Workers of America
Community Change
CREDO Action
DC Abortion Fund
DC Appleseed
DC Democratic State Committee
DC Environmental Network,
Global Green USA
DC Federation of Democratic Women
DC for Democracy
DC Metro Adapt
DC Statehood - Yes We Can!
DC Statehood Green Party
Death with Dignity National Center
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Justice
The Democracy Initiative
Democracy 21
Democracy for America
Demos
End Citizens United Action Fund
Endangered Species Coalition
Equality Federation
Food and Water Watch
Free Speech for People
Friends of the Earth
Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
Generation Progress
Gertrude Stein Democratic Club
Greenpeace US
Health in Justice Action Lab
Northeastern University School of Law
Hip Hop Caucus
HIPS
Human Rights Campaign
Indivisible
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
Jewish Women International
Jews United for Justice
Lambda Legal
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Conservation Voters
League Of Women Voters of The District of Columbia
League Of Women Voters of The Us
Let America Vote
March for Our Lives
March for Our Lives DC
Mommieactivist and Sons
MomsRising
MoveON
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Action Network
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Independent Living
National Education Association
National Equality Action Team
National Fair Housing Alliance
National Federation of Democratic Women
National Lawyers Guild - DC Chapter
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women DC Chapter
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
National Women's Law Center
Neighbors United for DC Statehood
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New Progressive Alliance
Newtown Action Alliance
NOPE Neighbors
NORML
Our Maryland
Our Revolution
Patriotic Millionaires
People Demanding Action
People for the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Pride at Work
Progressive Change Campaign Committee
Progressive Turnout Project
Public Citizen
Public Justice Center
Rural Coalition
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Sierra Club
SIEU 32BJ
Small Planet Institute
Students for DC Statehood
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
The D.C. Statehood Coalition
The Justice Roundtable
The Taif Group, LLC
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity (URGE)
UNITE Here Local 25
United State of Women
Veterans for DC Statehood
Ward 3 Democrats
Ward 8 Democrats
Washington Ethical Society
Washington Lawyer's Committee
Working Families Party - DC