The Honorable Joseph Manchin III  
United States Senator  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator  
Russell Senate Office Building 172  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Carol Miller  
Congresswoman  
465 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Alex Mooney  
Congressman  
222 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable David McKinley  
Congressman  
2239 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

Dear Senators and Congressmen,

We, the members of the West Virginia Legislature, urge you to reject calls by the Biden Administration and some Congressional Democrats to designate the District of Columbia as the 51st State of the Union, as introduced yesterday in the Congress.

If Washington, D.C. became a state, the representation of West Virginians in Congress would be further diminished by adding two additional Senators to the United States Senate and shifting the balance of power sharply for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the District of Columbia’s three current non-voting Congressmen would have the authority to vote in the United States House of Representatives, minimizing the voices of West Virginia’s three Congressional Representatives.

Furthermore, the constitutionality of D.C. statehood has been called into question for decades and has never been settled. The District of Columbia was set aside as a separate city where the federal government could operate independently. Serious constitutional issues could arise. Statehood would give the District of Columbia the unfair advantage of harboring the nation’s federal government.

Senator Manchin, as you are well aware, you will play a key role in determining if this issue and many other controversial issues become law. As representatives of constituents throughout West Virginia, it is our duty to address their concerns and make you aware as to where they stand.

We, the members of the West Virginia Legislature, on behalf of our constituents, urge you to stand firmly against any and all efforts to admit the District of Columbia as the 51st State of the United States of America.
Delegate Josh Holstein  
District 23-Boone

Delegate Austin Haynes  
District 32-Fayette

Delegate Charlie Reynolds  
District 4-Marshall

Delegate Laura Kimble  
District 48-Harrison

Delegate Riley Keaton  
District 11-Roane

Delegate Adam Burkhammer  
District 46-Lewis

Delegate Todd Longanacre  
District 42-Greenbrier

Delegate Doug Smith  
District 27-Mercer

Delegate Trenton Barnhart  
District 7-Pleasants

Delegate Dana Ferrell  
District 39-Kanawha

Delegate Mark Dean  
District 21-Mingo

Delegate Bryan Ward  
District 55-Hardy

Delegate Chris Phillips  
District 47-Barbour

Delegate Barry Bruce  
District 42-Greenbrier

Delegate Wayne Clark  
District 65-Jefferson

Delegate John Mandt Jr.  
District 16-Cabell
Senator Amy Nichole Grady  
District 4-Mason

Senator Mark Maynard  
District 6-Wayne

Senator Donna Boley  
District 3-Pleasants

Senator Karnes  
District 11-Randolph

Senator Charles Clements  
District 2-Wetzel

Senator Rupie Phillips  
District 7-Logan

Senator Bill Hamilton  
District 11-Upshur

Senator Eric J. Tarr  
District 4-Putnam