



June 9, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kelly
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul A. Gosar
2057 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Andy Biggs
171 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Schweikert
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
1131 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Lesko
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Stanton
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives:

The people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788. The passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the United States.

Residents of the District of Columbia were not granted the right to vote for the President and Vice President until the passage of the 23rd Amendment the United States Constitution in 1961.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau the District of Columbia's population was approximately 712,000 residents in 2020 -- comparable to the populations of Wyoming (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska (731,000), and North Dakota (765,000). District of Columbia residents share all the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries, and defending the United States as members of the United States armed forces in every war since the War for Independence. Yet they remain denied full representation in Congress.

On November 8, 2016, District of Columbia residents endorsed statehood and passed a District-wide referendum by 86 percent.

No other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital. The residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of Arizona and all other states.

Congress has repeatedly interfered with the District of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that impact expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue, including barring the use of locally raised revenue, which violates the fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents the will of their citizens. Although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets since 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget.

We were grateful to learn that District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper have introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington, D.C. and its residents with all the rights of taxpaying American citizens, including two Senators and at least one House member.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United States Congress to address the District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter agreement, to which the United States is a signatory.

We, the undersigned members of the Arizona State Legislature, urge the United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C., and we resolve that the State of Arizona supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States of America.

Signed,



Daniel Hernandez, Jr.
State Representative, LD2



Andrea Dalessandro
State Representative, LD2



Andrés Cano
State Representative, LD3



Alma Hernandez
State Representative, LD3



Charlene R. Fernandez
State Representative, LD4



Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren
State Representative, LD7



Myron Tsoie
State Representative, LD7



Randall Friese
State Representative, LD9



Pamela Powers Hannley
State Representative, LD9



Domingo DeGrazia
House Minority Whip, LD10



Stephanie Stahl Hamilton
State Representative, LD10



Jennifer Jermaine
State Representative, LD18



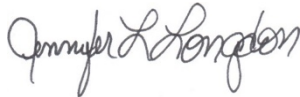
Diego Espinoza
State Representative, LD19



Lorenzo Sierra
State Representative, LD19



Judy Schwiebert
State Representative, LD20



Jennifer L. Longdon
House Assistant Minority Leader, LD24



Amish Shah
State Representative, LD24




Melody Hernandez
State Representative, LD26



Athena Salman
State Representative, LD26



Reginald Bolding, Jr.
House Minority Leader, LD27



Diego Rodriguez
State Representative, LD27



Richard C. Andrade
State Representative, LD29



Robert Meza
State Representative, LD30



Raquel Terán
State Representative, LD30



Rosanna Gabaldon
State Senator, LD2



Sally Ann Gonzales
State Senator, LD3



Lisa Otondo
State Senator, LD4



Victoria Steele
Senate Minority Whip, LD9



Kirsten Engel
State Senator, LD10



Lela Alston
State Senator, LD24



Juan Mendez
State Senator, LD26



Rebecca Rios
Senate Minority Leader, LD27



Tony Navarrete
State Senator, LD30