

2.19.2025

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify **in support** of SCR 4009, a resolution urging Congress to support the admission of Washington, DC into the Union as a state of the United States.

**My name is Julia Farber and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.**

I have lived in the District of Columbia for a total of 14 years. I currently own my own home in the Van Ness neighborhood. I work in sustainability for a global manufacturing company. I am originally from Michigan, and I relocated to DC for work opportunities in 2009.

DC is a wonderful place to live showcasing the best that this country has to offer: we have world class museums, excellent restaurants, fantastic neighborhoods and so much more. My friends are teachers, restaurant owners, doctors, engineers, nurses, researchers, government workers, and national security experts. The only thing we are missing is full participation in our democracy. I have personally relocated to the city a few times due to work transfers in and out. I can tell you each time I move back, despite my love for the city, and all it offers, it is hard to give up the rights and representation of the other places that I have lived.

This is also what happens to North Dakotans who move to the District to support your representatives, or to work for non profits, or to move around in their own careers. As there are no tax-exempt places in this nation, it is vital that citizens of the United State of America are universally afforded access to representation.

**I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

**Approximately the same number of people live in DC as live in North Dakota.** Yet unlike the Peace Garden State we have no voting representatives in Congress. This means we have no say in federal laws, policies, and programs, and no one to champion our interests in debates over national priorities.

In addition, **our local government is also at constant risk of interference from federal lawmakers.** Without statehood, DC’s power over issues like our local schools, health care, senior services, and other key programs is at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect. This is an immediate danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

DC residents have served in every war, and there are currently [more than 8,000 DC residents serving in the US military](#) — yet we have no say in whether our country goes

to war.

DC residents pay the [highest federal taxes per capita](#) compared to any other state —yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

Statehood for DC is the only solution to this problem. Strengthening democracy for DC will strengthen democracy everywhere, including for North Dakota communities. Correcting DC's lack of representation is an issue of justice, and as a DC resident I encourage you to be in solidarity with communities here and vote "yes" on SCR 4009.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,

Julia Farber  
Washington DC