

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 Ann DeWig and I am a United States citizen and proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in the Capital Hill neighborhood of DC for 6 years. I was born and raised in Colorado, and lived and worked in Iowa, Texas, Maryland, and Arizona – all where I enjoyed full representation and rights. But when I moved to DC for work, I lost all those rights. I own a small production company and work with over 400 clients all across the country, all of whom have more rights than I do. Residents of Washington, D.C. also pay the highest federal taxes per capita, an average of 17.40%. That's a rate more than 60% higher than the average federal taxes paid by residents of North Dakota —yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who PROUDLY 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. Moreso, your representatives should be representing North Dakota, not bogged down with managing the city of Washington DC.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann DeWig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann DeWig
Washington DC