

Dear Members
of the North
Dakota
Legislative
Assembly:

My name is Justin and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC and indeed, the United States. Sadly, I do not enjoy the same luxury of representation as nearly all my fellow countrymen do.

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. Seems pretty unfair, no?

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.

Sincerely,

Justin Hay,
Washington DC