

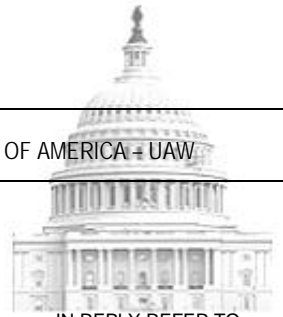


INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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IN REPLY REFER TO

February 23, 2009

1757 N STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
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Dear Senator:

Tomorrow the Senate is expected to take up the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act (DC VRA) (S. 160). The UAW urges you to vote for cloture and for this long-overdue legislation to give the citizens of the District of Columbia a vote in the House of Representatives.

Over half a million residents of the District of Columbia, a majority of whom are African-Americans, have no voting representative in either chamber of the U.S. Congress. This is so despite the fact that D.C. residents pay federal taxes, sit on federal juries, and serve in the armed forces in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere throughout the world. There is no justification for depriving these citizens from having voting representation in the Congress.

An overwhelming percentage of Americans support voting rights for D.C. residents. A national survey conducted in 2005 by KRC Research found that 82 percent of Americans favor voting rights for D.C. residents. This strong support crossed party lines and held steady in all geographic sections of the country.

The injustice currently suffered by D.C. residents is partially addressed by DC VRA, which would grant a vote in the House of Representatives to the District's elected Delegate. The bill would also add an additional Member to the Utah delegation.

The UAW urges you to vote for cloture and for final passage of the DC VRA (S. 160). Thank you for considering our views on this important civil rights issue.

Sincerely,

Alan Reuther
Legislative Director

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