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February 7, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Prompt Consideration of the D.C. Voting Rights Act of 2007 (H.R. 328)

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of DC For Democracy (DCFD) and Democracy For America (DFA), we ask that you act quickly to schedule, consider and pass the DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2007 (DC Voting Rights Act, H.R. 328). After receiving wide bi-partisan support in the 109th Congress, Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Representative Tom Davis reintroduced the DC Voting Rights Act for prompt consideration in the 110th Congress. With your leadership and continued support for this legislation, we believe now is our best chance in a generation to achieve full House representation for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

As you know, H.R. 328 provides voting representation in the House of Representatives for citizens living in the District of Columbia by expanding the size of the House to 437 members, with the state of Utah gaining the other additional seat until reapportionment after 2010. This approach is vote-neutral and balances the seat for traditionally Democratic DC with an additional seat for Republican-leaning Utah. DCFD and DFA support a bipartisan approach to expanding democratic rights to all under- and unrepresented American citizens, as is embodied in this bill, and we strongly believe such bipartisanship is needed for this bill to prevail in 2007.

The pairing of the District of Columbia seat with the seat for Utah is fundamental to a legislative success in the 110th Congress and will maintain the momentum generated through the strong bipartisan support and two committee hearings of the last session. While the House Judiciary Committee is considering moving H.R. 328 sometime in few weeks, at a Subcommittee on the Constitution hearing last September, both legal scholars and lawmakers expressed unanimous consent that denying DC residents a vote in Congress is a problem that must be corrected. Additionally, in May 2006, identical voting rights legislation passed out of the House Committee on Government Reform with overwhelming bipartisan support and a vote of 29-4. Bipartisan support for expanded DC voting rights on Capitol Hill is also echoed by Americans across the country. According to a recent national poll conducted by KRC Research, 82 percent of Americans believe that DC residents deserve full voting representation in Congress.

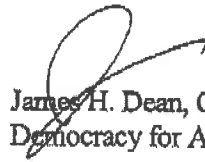
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Our hope is that this Congress will embrace H.R. 328 and act expeditiously to pass it. With your leadership, we can end 206 years of taxation without representation in the nation's capital. Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Sincerely,



John Nowicki, Chair
DC For Democracy



James H. Dean, Chair
Democracy for America



Karen D. Rose, Chair
Committee on Democracy & Voting Rights
DC For Democracy