



National
Urban League

***Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.***

June 12, 2006

Dear House Judiciary Committee Member:

On behalf of the National Urban League, I am writing to express our strong support for the *DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006 (H.R. 5388)*, and urge you to vote for its passage when it comes before your committee.

As you may know, H.R. 5388 passed the House Government Reform Committee by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 29-4 on May 18, 2006.

The DC Voting Rights Act is a crucial step towards bringing full voting representation in Congress to the nearly 600,000 people who reside in the District of Columbia – a right enjoyed by all other Americans but long overdue for citizens who reside in our nation's capital. DC residents pay taxes, serve on juries, and put their lives on the line by defending our nation during times of war. We can no longer tolerate being the only democratic country in the world that denies voting representation to citizens of the nation's capital. Democracy begins at home!

Support for DC residents' voting rights runs throughout the country as evidenced by a national poll conducted by KRC Research last year. The poll showed that 82 percent of Americans believe that DC residents deserve full voting representation in Congress.

In my Keynote Address during the National Urban League's annual conference in 2005, I stated that we should make it clear that the right to vote shouldn't depend on where you live – and that's why it's finally time that DC had a voting member in the House, two voting members in the Senate, and full voting rights for every single citizen in the District of Columbia. Let's free DC and unshackle this last colony.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League