



FOR  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE  
NATION'S  
CAPITAL

June 25, 2007

Re: S.1257 – Full Voting Rights in the House of Representatives

Dear Senator:

Serving as a catalyst for community development, the Federal City Council is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the improvement of the Nation's Capital. Since its founding in 1954, the Council has been instrumental in bringing the region's top business, professional, educational and elected officials together to affect change in not only the physical landscape of the capital city, but also in the quality of life for its residents, which is why I write to you today.

In all but one way, the residents of the District of Columbia are the same as the residents of their respective neighboring states of Maryland and Virginia. They pay taxes, serve on juries, have defended our Constitution and just recently deployed a National Guard unit of military police to help bring democracy to Iraq. The only difference is they are denied voting representation in Congress.

On June 13, the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Reform Committee met to correct a 200 year old injustice borne by residents of our Nation's Capital. In an overwhelming show of unity, partisan politics were put aside as S.1257, sponsored by Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-RI) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Representatives Thomas Davis (R-VA) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), was passed in committee 9-1. The DC House Voting Rights Act will provide Washingtonians with a full voting member in the U.S. House of Representative for the first time in the history of our country.

The Supreme Court has said that "no right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live." Although residents of the District of Columbia do not reside in a state, they are American citizens. It is a fundamental belief that all American citizens have earned the right to have a vote in our national legislature. Having won bi-partisan support in committee, the real work has begun to garner enough support to make S.1257 filibuster proof.

Bringing democracy to the residents of our Nation's Capitol is an indisputably just cause that every U.S. Senator can support. That's why I am asking for your support on S.1257, so that citizens of the Nation's Capital will enjoy the fundamental, democratic right to voting representation – a right which, as a nation, we are promoting around the world.

Sincerely,

Frank Keating  
President, Federal City Council

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*Chairman & CEO*  
Bailey Capital Corporation

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The Honorable Frank Keating  
*President & CEO*  
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