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April 29, 2025

A message from the residents of Washington, D.C.

Greetings,

Thank you for taking the time to acknowledge and consider the voices of Washington, D.C. residents who are facing the threat of losing our local home rule. On Feb 6, 2025, Utah Sen. Mike Lee, and Tennessee Rep. Andy Ogles introduced “H.R.1089 - BOWSER Act” 119th Congress (2025-2026), which is the "Bringing Oversight to Washington and Safety to Every Resident" Act.

This legislation, if successful, would strip the D.C. government of its powers – including the mayor and D.C. Council. The new bill is named for D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, and it comes as the District also braces for impacts from policy changes made by the Trump administration. Both Republican congressmen have been highly critical of Mayor Muriel Bowser and the D.C. Council, which many D.C. residents also are expressing grave disappointment with our current district leadership. However, “we the people” of Washington, D.C. would like to respectfully preserve our right to vote members of our failed local governance out through our local democracy and intended 2026 elections moving forward.

We are here today to ask for your support in helping the residents of D.C. to “Defend DC” from the outside threats and overreaching members of Congress who seek to reverse our home rule, by voting “NO” on the “BOWSER Act”, if it reaches a vote. We are aware that President Trump could effectively eliminate home rule without Congress's help by reinstating the Control Board, which is why we are standing up in representation of the

collective body of D.C. residents to solicit your support in our efforts to save our local autonomy.

As a mental health advocate and a responsible leader, I am concerned with the unhealthy impact on our citizens with regards to the continued demonstrated failures of our current mayor and members of the D.C. council. Matters of homelessness, and violent crime were listed along with other documented reasons for the justification of the bill. Residents of D.C. are equally concerned with matters such as these and that are prevalent not only here in our home city, but also across this nation. In Rep. Ogles' state of Tennessee for example, high crime rates exist, as well as in places like Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Montana, Alabama, Florida, Missouri, and others. However, these jurisdictions don't appear to be facing the threat of being taken over by the President or congressional members seeking to impose undue trauma, anxiety, and confusion amongst their citizenry. Residents of Washington, D.C. have been left to face these unhealthy impositions since the onset of Pres. Trump's reign along with the presentation of Rep. Ogles, and Sen. Lee's proposed bill. D.C. is not perfect by any means. Our fight to save our sovereignty is bigger than any political agenda meant to demean us through sensationalized politics. We welcome the President, Rep. Ogles, and Sen. Lee constructive observations and true intentions for helping to support positive changes not only in Washington, D.C. but also equally across our great nation, without the threat of a "take over".

Washington, D.C. citizens are looking forward to the 2026 local city elections which offers us an opportunity to successfully vote to remove the failed local leadership. We as residents do want safer and cleaner communities as well as efficient governance however, we would appreciate the respect of being left to correct our challenges on our own with the proper and continued access to our sovereignty as proud tax paying and armed forces serving citizens of America's democracy.

Supporting Washington D.C.'s local sovereignty and governance is essential for several reasons. First, local self-governance allows our residents to have a genuine voice in the political process, enabling them to address community-specific issues and priorities more effectively. D.C. is home to a diverse population with unique challenges and needs that can be better understood and managed by local authorities familiar with our communities. Second, local governance, when properly executed, fosters accountability, as elected officials are directly answerable to their constituents, leading to more responsive and transparent decision-making. Furthermore, D.C.'s autonomy aligns its status with that of other U.S. cities, promoting fairness and equity in representation. Lastly, supporting D.C.'s empowerment to continue governing itself would help break the cycle of federal overreach and intervention, allowing the district to thrive and innovate in ways that reflect the will and aspirations of its residents. Standing with D.C.'s citizens and their local sovereignty

reinforces democratic principles and affirms the right of all citizens to self-determination in their governance.

In closing, Washington, D.C. stakeholders and community leaders are proud to stand in support of the legislation to implement a National Infrastructure Bank which will be capitalized by existing Treasury debt and require no new federal appropriations and no new federal taxes.

The Bank will invest five trillion dollars into infrastructure projects only and create twenty-five million new jobs. The NIB will pay Davis-Bacon wages and mandate Buy America provisions. Disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) will be supported as will extensive minority hiring. The NIB will finance seven million new units of truly affordable housing, repair or replace all infrastructure outlined by the ASCE Report Card, finance mass transit, passenger and High-Speed Rail, including High-Speed Rail from Washington, DC to Boston, and all other needed projects. The Bank will grow the economy by at least 5% per year as did its predecessors.

It will address the urgent needs of the District of Columbia, including: construction of 37,000 new units of truly affordable housing and finance capital improvements to existing public housing; replace all 42,000 lead water service lines; fix roads and bridges needing repair; repair and replace the aging water pipes in the city; cover the capital budget shortfall of Metro subway and bus service.

Thirty State Legislatures have introduced resolutions in support of the NIB and eight have passed at least one chamber. Many city councils have endorsed including: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and more. National endorsements include: National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, National Asian-Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators, the US High Speed Rail Association, National Association of Minority Contractors, and many more.

Participants include: Alphecca Muttardy, former Senior Economist, International Monetary Fund, Fairfax; Donald Siefkes, retired executive General Motors, Detroit; Stan Forczek, former Director of Finance Amtrak Northeast Corridor, New Jersey, Ellen Brown, Esq., Founder Public Banking Institute, Los Angeles, and D.C.'s 2026 Mayoral Candidate, Dr. Rhonda L. Hamilton.

I have enclosed additional information regarding The National Infrastructure Bank as an attestation of Washington, D.C. citizens' intent to "clean up" our city by starting with the implementation of new local leadership through the voting process, and the collaboration and support of solid allies in our fight to "save" our city and to secure our budgetary future.

Your support could help D.C. residents to win against the current attacks to our home rule!

#DefendDC!

Thank you,
Dr. Rhonda L. Hamilton