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Dear Senator,

Today we began the process of correcting a centuries-old injustice, and we look forward to the vote which will give nearly 600,000 Americans the voting representation in Congress they deserve.

U.S.PIRG is staunchly supportive of S.160, The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009. As an organization that works for civic engagement and believes firmly in the democratic process, we feel that the residents of the District of Columbia deserve the same voice as all other American citizens.

It is an offense to our democracy that our nation currently deprives a set of D.C. citizens – who pay federal taxes and serve bravely in our Armed Forces – a basic civil right upon which our country was conceived, that of equal representation. This resonates even more strongly as we consider that America is the only democracy in the world that denies the citizens of its capital city the right to voting representation in its national legislature.

We at U.S.PIRG feel that arguments about the bill's constitutionality are disingenuous distractions. The bill before the Senate is a fair, bipartisan, and will reverse more than two centuries of injustice to over half a million American citizens. If we can send American soldiers to fight for democracy around the world to ensure that citizens of other nations have the right to vote, the least we can do is give the same opportunity to our fellow Americans in the shadow of the United States Capitol.

We urge you to support S.160 when it reaches the floor so that residents of the District of Columbia have a vote that reaches the ears of a representative who has the power to speak for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Gary Kalman, Director Federal Legislative Office, U.S.PIRG
Lisa Gilbert, Democracy Advocate, U.S. PIRG

Alaska PIRG • California PIRG • Colorado PIRG • Connecticut PIRG • Florida PIRG • Georgia PIRG • Illinois PIRG • Indiana PIRG • Iowa PIRG • Maryland PIRG • Massachusetts PIRG • PIRG in Michigan • Missouri PIRG • Montana PIRG • New Hampshire PIRG • New Jersey PIRG • New Mexico PIRG • New York PIRG • North Carolina PIRG • Ohio PIRG • Oregon State PIRG • Pennsylvania PIRG • Rhode Island PIRG • Texas PIRG • Vermont PIRG • Washington PIRG • Wisconsin PIRG