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February 23, 2025

Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator Scott Kawasaki, Chair
Via: senate.state.affairs@akieg.gov

Dear Senator Kawasaki and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports the passage of SJR 6 WASHINGTON D.C. STATEHOOD. The League of Women Voters of the United States, our national organization, has long held a position supporting voting rights for District of Columbia citizens and has in recent decades urged statehood for the District.

Although Washington, DC is a large city by Alaska standards, the population of the District itself is only 689.5 thousand people, which would place it as a state between Alaska and Vermont amongst the five smallest states. It would join the seven states-- Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Delaware—that have only one delegate in the House of Representatives. (The District currently has a non-voting representative in the House who can draft legislation but cannot vote.)

Because Alaska's own campaign for statehood is relatively recent, and we still have citizens who remember our territorial status before 1959, when we had federal rule and no voting representation in Congress, it seems appropriate that Alaskans and the Alaska State Legislature should speak up in support of statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia, who pay federal income taxes and serve in the US military without full representation in Congress.

The League is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose candidates or parties, but it does take positions on issues after reaching a consensus based on careful study. The League of Women Voters US position states: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that citizens of the District of Columbia should be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as are all other citizens of the United States."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Sherif".

Sue Sherif
On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Alaska Board