



June 22, 2023

Hon. Steve Womak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government, Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Steny Hoyer
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government, Committee on
Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member:

We write with regard to the Subcommittee Mark of the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, which was released only yesterday and which we understand the Subcommittee will consider this morning. We are united in our objection to the numerous riders in Title VIII restricting actions by and policies of the District government – especially ones newly proposed this year. We respectfully request that they be removed from the bill during the Subcommittee's markup.

We also ask that proposed funding be restored to the levels requested for the Emergency Planning and Security Fund, the DC Court of Appeals, the Superior Court, and the Court System.

Taken together, the riders and budget cuts in the Subcommittee's proposal jeopardize public safety, harm the public health, and will unbalance the District's Fiscal Year 2024 budget. For instance, the \$20 million reduction for Emergency Planning and Security will directly and adversely affect the Metropolitan Police Department's ability to protect persons and property, including federal interests. The continuing rider prohibiting the District from regulating the sale or distribution of cannabis is actually encouraging an underground illegal market at a time when possession and use are already permitted in DC and 23 states including adjoining Maryland and Virginia.

The prohibition on using any funds for photo traffic enforcement will facilitate reckless driving such as red light running and excessive speeding, thereby endangering residents, workers, and visitors. It also will unbalance the District's budget.

We highlight these riders to show how the proposed bill will seriously hurt the District, but we ask you to remove all the DC riders. They do not make the District safer, nor do they make sound fiscal sense. They are anti-democratic, inconsistent with the Home Rule Act, and disrespectful of the rights of DC residents to self-governance. Some unsettle longstanding public policy by, for example, overturning laws adopted in 2014 and 2016, while others, like legislating

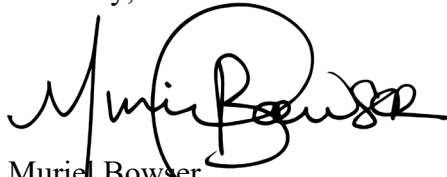
House Appropriations
Re: FY24 FSGG Appropriation Mark

June 22, 2023


right-turns-on-red, are quintessentially local issues beneath the importance of Congress' time and attention.

We respectfully request restoration of funding levels and removal of the policy riders.


Sincerely,



Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia



Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia



Brian L. Schwalb
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

cc: Hon. Kay Granger, Chairwoman, Committee on Appropriations
Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations