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LaKimba DeSadier
NBCSL Executive Director

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Vincent Gray
City Council Chairman
District of Columbia City Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., #504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Gray:

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) comprises over 600 African American state representatives and senators representing approximately 50 million constituents. We provide education to legislators and bring them together to address an array of policy issues.

We understand that the District of Columbia (D.C.) City Council is considering legislative measure B18-0769, which would allow D.C. to join several states in an interstate compact in support of the national popular vote for presidential elections. The growing list currently consists of Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, and Washington, nearly one-quarter of the 270 Electoral College votes required to activate the compact. As you are aware, every electoral vote from the enacting states and D.C. would be awarded to the presidential candidate receiving the most popular votes in all 50 states and D.C. It would take effect only after enough states had joined the compact to represent the 270-member majority.

At our 30th Annual Legislative Conference in December of 2006, we unanimously passed a resolution in support of the National Popular Vote because we believe that every vote should count and count equally. In truth, a National Popular Vote is the *only* mechanism that would allow America to live up to and live out its democratic ideals. Our resolution articulated another reason for endorsing the National Popular Vote, "To effectively ensure that no future U.S. President be elected without having received the highest number of votes of all candidates in the election." Please see the enclosed resolution.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and ask you to vote in favor of B18-0769.

Sincerely,

Calvin Smyre
NBCSL President
Georgia House of Representatives

Enclosure: Resolution LJE-07-18