

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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**MEMORANDUM**

**September 16, 2019**

**To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform**

**Fr: Majority Staff**

**Re: Hearing on “H.R. 51: Making D.C. the 51st State”**

On **Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Committee will hold a hearing on H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act.

**I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

H.R. 51 was introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton on January 3, 2019. The bill would admit the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth into the Union. The State would consist of most of the territory of the present-day District of Columbia. Congress would retain plenary authority over the reduced federal district. The bill has 219 cosponsors and is endorsed by 102 national organizations.

**II. WITNESSES**

**The Honorable Muriel Bowser**  
Mayor  
District of Columbia

**The Honorable Phil Mendelson**  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia

**Jeffrey S. DeWitt**  
Chief Financial Officer  
District of Columbia

**Kenneth R. Thomas**  
Legislative Attorney  
Congressional Research Service

**Kerwin E. Miller**

Veteran and District of Columbia Resident

**Roger Pilon**

B. Kenneth Simon Chair, Constitutional Studies  
Cato Institute

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