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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