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***A Constitutional and Federalist Objection to Home Rule for the
District of Columbia***

Prepared for Review by Congress and Constitutional Scholars

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Opening Prayer

“A PRAYER FOR NATIONAL ORDER AND DIVINE GOVERNANCE”

HEAVENLY FATHER, RULER OF NATIONS AND DEFENDER OF JUSTICE,

WE COME BEFORE YOU WITH REVERENCE AND HUMILITY, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT NO AUTHORITY EXISTS EXCEPT BY YOUR SOVEREIGN HAND. YOU HAVE ORDAINED GOVERNMENT FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EVIL AND THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE. YOU HAVE BLESSED THIS NATION WITH LIBERTY, BUT ALSO ENTRUSTED ITS LEADERS WITH THE SACRED DUTY OF STEWARDSHIP OVER ITS PEOPLE AND ITS INSTITUTIONS.

TODAY, AS WE PRESENT THIS WORK CONCERNING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—THIS SEAT OF OUR NATIONAL COVENANT—WE ASK FOR YOUR DIVINE WISDOM. LET OUR DELIBERATIONS BE GUIDED NOT BY PARTISANSHIP, NOR BY AMBITION, BUT BY TRUTH, BY PRINCIPLE, AND BY THE ANCIENT WISDOM OF YOUR WORD.

MAY THIS CAPITAL REMAIN A CITY SET APART, A BEACON OF ORDER AND NOT CONFUSION, OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND NOT REBELLION. GUARD ITS FOUNDATIONS, O LORD, AND RAISE UP RIGHTEOUS LEADERS WHO FEAR YOUR NAME AND UPHOLD JUSTICE. DELIVER US FROM CORRUPTION, FROM PRIDE, AND FROM THE DECAY OF LAWLESSNESS. AND LET THIS SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS AND TO THE PEOPLE BE RECEIVED WITH CLEAR EYES, SOBER MINDS, AND CONTRITE HEARTS.

WE ASK THIS IN THE MIGHTY NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND KING.

AMEN.



Opening Statement

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT IS NOT A CRY FOR POLITICAL ADVANTAGE, BUT A CALL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OBEDIENCE AND MORAL CLARITY. IN AN ERA OF CONFUSION AND CREEPING REBELLION AGAINST THE DESIGN OF OUR FOUNDERS AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE MOST HIGH, WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE NATION'S CAPITAL TO BECOME A CITY UNMOORED FROM ITS PURPOSE.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS NOT A STATE. IT IS A SYMBOL. A SANCTUARY OF AMERICAN UNITY, ENTRUSTED TO THE GUARDIANSHIP OF CONGRESS AND ACCOUNTABLE TO NO INTEREST BUT THE NATIONAL INTEREST. TO EXTEND PERMANENT HOME RULE TO SUCH A CITY—ESPECIALLY ONE OVERWHELMED BY IDEOLOGICAL EXTREMISM AND POLITICAL IMBALANCE—IS TO COURT THE FRAGMENTATION OF OUR REPUBLIC.

LET THIS BE A REMINDER: WHEN A HOUSE FORGETS ITS CORNERSTONE, THE WHOLE STRUCTURE WILL EVENTUALLY COLLAPSE. MAY THIS BE A WARNING. MAY THIS BE A CALL TO RESTORE ORDER BEFORE THE CRACKS BECOME IRREVERSIBLE.



Executive Summary:

THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES THE LEGAL, HISTORICAL, AND PHILOSOPHICAL OBJECTIONS TO EXPANDING OR MAINTAINING HOME RULE GOVERNANCE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. IT AFFIRMS THE FOUNDING FATHERS' ORIGINAL INTENT FOR THE FEDERAL DISTRICT TO REMAIN UNDER CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT, DEFENDS THE SUPREMACY OF FEDERAL JURISDICTION IN MATTERS OF NATIONAL GOVERNANCE, AND ARTICULATES THE DANGERS OF CREATING A QUASI-STATE ENTITY IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

I. Constitutional Foundation: The District's Unique Status

1. ARTICLE I, SECTION 8, CLAUSE 17 OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GIVES CONGRESS EXCLUSIVE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY "IN ALL CASES WHATSOEVER" OVER THE DISTRICT:

"To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square)..."

- **COUNTERARGUMENT TO HOME RULE: THE CONSTITUTION EXPLICITLY REMOVES THE DISTRICT FROM STANDARD STATE GOVERNANCE MODELS. CONGRESS ALONE WAS GRANTED PLENARY AUTHORITY. ANY DELEGATION OF THIS AUTHORITY, AS IN THE 1973 HOME RULE ACT, EXISTS ONLY AT CONGRESS'S PLEASURE AND MAY BE REVOKED WITHOUT NOTICE.**
- **LEGAL PRECEDENT: COURTS HAVE AFFIRMED CONGRESSIONAL SUPREMACY OVER THE DISTRICT, EVEN WHERE SOME POWERS HAVE BEEN DELEGATED.**



II. Federalism and the Neutral Seat of Government

1. THE FOUNDERS ENVISIONED A NEUTRAL, POLITICALLY UNALIGNED CAPITAL:

- **JAMES MADISON (FEDERALIST NO. 43) ARGUED THAT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE “DEPENDENT ON THE AUTHORITY OF ANY SINGLE STATE.”**
- **THE DISTRICT’S POLITICAL NEUTRALITY PRESERVES THE NATIONAL CAPITAL FROM PAROCHIAL OR PARTISAN DOMINANCE.**

2. HOME RULE INJECTS PARTISANSHIP INTO FEDERAL PROXIMITY:

- **THE DISTRICT’S CURRENT GOVERNANCE TRENDS OVERWHELMINGLY TOWARD ONE POLITICAL PARTY.**
- **LOCAL LAWS INCREASINGLY REFLECT PARTISAN IDEOLOGIES THAT CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL STANDARDS, LEADING TO CONSTITUTIONAL CLASHES AND NATIONAL EMBARRASSMENT.**

III. Governance Concerns and Mismanagement

1. HISTORIC MISMANAGEMENT UNDER HOME RULE:

- **THE 1995 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL CONTROL BOARD WAS ESTABLISHED AFTER FINANCIAL COLLAPSE UNDER LOCAL RULE.**
- **CORRUPTION, MISALLOCATION OF FEDERAL FUNDS, AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY HAVE PLAGUED THE CITY GOVERNMENT FOR DECADES.**

2. FEDERAL INTERESTS REQUIRE PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT:

- **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS CAPITOL SECURITY, FOREIGN EMBASSIES, AND NATIONAL MONUMENTS CANNOT BE SUBJECTED TO LOCAL ORDINANCES OR INTERFERENCE.**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY FAILURES, SUCH AS RISING VIOLENT CRIME AND SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES, NOW POSE NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS.**



IV. Lack of Accountability and Voter Representation

1. THE CONSTITUTION DOES NOT GUARANTEE STATE-LEVEL REPRESENTATION FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS.

- **CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT VOLUNTARILY RESIDE IN A FEDERAL ENCLAVE. THEY ARE NOT DENIED RIGHTS—THEY ARE PARTICIPANTS IN A UNIQUE JURISDICTION.**
- **CALLS FOR REPRESENTATION SHOULD NOT OVERRIDE THE STRUCTURE OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH DOES NOT EQUATE RESIDENCY IN THE CAPITAL WITH STATEHOOD.**

2. ALTERNATIVES EXIST WITHOUT ALTERING HOME RULE OR PURSUING STATEHOOD:

- **RESIDENTS MAY RETAIN FULL VOTING REPRESENTATION BY RELOCATING TO ADJACENT MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA WHILE CONTINUING TO WORK IN D.C.**
- **RETROCESSION TO MARYLAND—IF REPRESENTATION IS A MORAL IMPERATIVE—IS MORE CONSTITUTIONAL THAN EXPANDING HOME RULE OR CREATING A NEW STATE.**

V. Risk of a Constitutional Crisis

1. EXPANDING HOME RULE LEADS TO BLURRED SOVEREIGNTY:

- **IF D.C. PASSES LAWS THAT DIRECTLY CONTRADICT FEDERAL LAW—ESPECIALLY REGARDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE, IMMIGRATION, OR CIVIL RIGHTS—IT CREATES A CONFLICT OF JURISDICTION.**
- **CONGRESS MAY BE FORCED INTO LEGAL BATTLES TO ASSERT CONTROL, WASTING RESOURCES AND UNDERMINING INSTITUTIONAL TRUST.**

2. D.C. STATEHOOD OR EXPANDED HOME RULE SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT:

- **OTHER CITIES (E.G., NEW YORK CITY, SAN FRANCISCO) COULD DEMAND SIMILAR QUASI-SOVEREIGNTY.**
- **THIS UNDERMINES THE UNION'S COHERENCE AND INVITES FRAGMENTATION OF AMERICAN FEDERALISM.**



VI. Moral and Spiritual Dimensions

1. THE CITY, AS THE CAPITAL OF A NATION UNDER GOD, SHOULD REFLECT ORDER, VIRTUE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

- **DELEGATING UNCHECKED AUTHORITY TO IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN LOCAL LEADERS RISKS MORAL CORRUPTION OF NATIONAL SYMBOLISM.**
- **MANY OF D.C.'S LOCAL LAWS DIRECTLY CONTRADICT THE BIBLICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES UPON WHICH THIS REPUBLIC WAS FOUNDED.**

2. THE INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC DEPENDS ON CENTRALIZED STEWARDSHIP OF THE FEDERAL SEAT:

- **JUST AS JERUSALEM WAS THE SEAT OF DIVINE GOVERNANCE IN ISRAEL, THE AMERICAN CAPITAL MUST REMAIN A SANCTUARY FOR NATIONAL LAW AND NOT LOCAL REBELLION.**

RECOMMENDED ACTION STEPS FOR CONGRESS:

- 1. INITIATE A FORMAL REVIEW OF THE 1973 HOME RULE ACT AND ITS OUTCOMES.**
- 2. ESTABLISH A NEW FEDERAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO MONITOR ALL D.C. LEGISLATION BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.**
- 3. REVOKE OR RESTRICT LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER LAW ENFORCEMENT, CRIMINAL SENTENCING, AND EDUCATION POLICY.**
- 4. REAFFIRM THE FEDERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT THROUGH A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ROOTED IN CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.**

Conclusion

HOME RULE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WHILE SEEMINGLY DEMOCRATIC IN APPEAL, IS ULTIMATELY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AND THREATENS THE INTEGRITY OF NATIONAL GOVERNANCE. CONGRESS MUST RECLAIM ITS RIGHTFUL AUTHORITY, EITHER BY REVOKING OR



STRICTLY LIMITING HOME RULE, AND REAFFIRM THAT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT EXISTS NOT FOR LOCAL BENEFIT—BUT FOR THE UNITY AND PRESERVATION OF THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC.

LET IT BE SAID: AMERICA SHALL NOT PERMIT ITS CAPITAL TO BECOME A CITY UNTO ITSELF, RULED BY MODERN PHARAOHS. WE ARE ONE NATION, UNDER GOD—ITS CENTER MUST BE PURE, GOVERNED BY THE LAW, AND PROTECTED FROM IDEOLOGICAL DECAY.

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE UNION, THE PROTECTION OF LIBERTY, AND THE GLORIFICATION OF CHRIST WHO IS OUR TRUE KING—HOME RULE MUST BE CURTAILED.

Closing Statement

THE HEART OF THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT OPPOSITION FOR ITS OWN SAKE, BUT REVERENCE FOR WHAT WAS HANDED DOWN—BY THE FRAMERS, BY PROVIDENCE, AND BY THE PEOPLE’S CONSENT. HOME RULE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THREATENS THE UNIQUE DESIGN OF OUR REPUBLIC. IT ATTEMPTS TO MAKE ORDINARY WHAT GOD AND THE CONSTITUTION HAVE SET APART.

LET US RETURN TO THAT SACRED ORDER. LET US PRESERVE WHAT REMAINS. AND LET US NOT CONFUSE THE RIGHT TO GOVERN WITH THE WISDOM TO DO SO. FOR ONLY WHEN WE HONOR WHAT IS ABOVE US CAN WE GOVERN WHAT IS BENEATH US.

SUBMITTED WITH RESPECT, RESOLVE, AND UNWAVERING ALLEGIANCE TO THE CONSTITUTION—AND TO THE LORD FROM WHOM TRUE AUTHORITY FLOWS.



Closing Prayer

“A PRAYER FOR COURAGE, CLARITY, AND NATIONAL RESTORATION”

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,

YOU HAVE SEEN THE FALL OF EMPIRES AND THE RISE OF NATIONS. YOU RAISE UP RULERS AND BRING DOWN THE PROUD. WE ASK NOW THAT YOU LOOK UPON OUR COUNTRY WITH MERCY, AND THAT YOU AWAKEN ITS LEADERS FROM SLUMBER.

AS THIS DOCUMENT IS RECEIVED, READ, AND DEBATED, MAY IT BE A TOOL FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS—NOT DIVISION. MAY IT PROVOKE NOT HATRED, BUT REPENTANCE. MAY IT STIR NOT FEAR, BUT CONVICTION. FOR THE GOVERNMENT RESTS NOT UPON MAN’S WISDOM BUT UPON YOUR DIVINE ORDER. LET THE SEAT OF THIS NATION NOT BE HANDED OVER TO VANITY, CORRUPTION, OR LOCAL REBELLION.

WE ASK YOU TO EXPOSE EVERY HIDDEN SCHEME OF LAWLESSNESS IN OUR CAPITAL. CLEANSE THE STREETS, PURIFY THE CHAMBERS OF GOVERNANCE, AND RESTORE FEAR OF THE LORD TO EVERY BRANCH OF THIS REPUBLIC.

PRESERVE AMERICA. REFINE HER. USE US TO SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE, AND TO RESIST THE TIDES OF LAWLESSNESS WITH THE SHIELD OF FAITH AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT.

LET YOUR WILL BE DONE—IN WASHINGTON AND ACROSS THIS LAND.

IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, THE KING OF ALL KINGS,

AMEN.



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