**Draft Template Letter**

**Please Support the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (H.R. 7525)**

March XX, 2024

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House of Representatives

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I’m writing to request that you support the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (H.R. 7525). This important bipartisan legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the House Oversight and Accountability Committee on March 7 and is now awaiting action by the full House. We urge you to work with congressional leadership to ensure that the legislation is considered in a timely fashion.

H.R. 7525 would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations. The bill also would codify in federal law a long-overdue, formal definition of “special district.”

Special districts are local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy and well-being. In the state of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, there are over X,XXX special districts providing a broad range of public services, including fire protection, drinking water and wastewater services, healthcare, transit, natural resource conservation, mosquito abatement, and many more essential local services.

Despite the prevalence of special districts throughout the United States, federal law lacks a consistent definition of special purpose units of local government. As a result, some special districts face challenges in accessing federal funding opportunities and are commonly omitted from the definition of eligible units of local government in legislative proposals that authorize federal programs and funding. Moreover, special districts lack official population figures and are therefore not recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as “geographic units of government.” As a result, special districts are unable to gain access to certain formula-driven grants and resources.

Again, we urge you to support the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* and to work with your House colleagues to prioritize passage of this critically important bill.

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please feel free to reach out to me/staff contact at email/phone.

Sincerely,

Name

Title